

The Borrowers

Based on the novels by Mary Norton

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3rd draft
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1 INT. LENDER HOUSE (PATRICK'S ROOM) - DAY

1

PATRICK, a determined boy of nine or ten, is searching for something. He throws the blankets from his bed, flops down on his stomach, and looks beneath it. Nothing.

He starts to ransack his closet. Toys, books, and items of clothing fly through the air, tossed out indiscriminately.

GRANDPA PETE (V.O. from DOORWAY)

You're not going to find it.

He ducks to avoid being hit by a stuffed monkey.

GRANDPA PETE (continuing)

It's gone Patrick, don't fret about it.

Patrick starts searching through desk drawers.

PATRICK

But I don't understand it Grandpa.
It's my favourite pen. It can't have just disappeared.

GRANDPA PETE

Did I say it did? No sir, I did not.
They took it.

Patrick is suddenly interested.

PATRICK

They? Who's they Grandpa?

Grandpa Pete takes his time settling into an armchair.

GRANDPA PETE

When I was your age I used to wonder about the same thing. Like why you could never find a stamp when you knew you had one left? How did the last biscuit in the packet always disappear? And where did pens go when they fell on the ground?

PATRICK

Where did they go Grandpa?

GRANDPA PETE (secretly)

There could be only one explanation.

Grandpa Pete pauses, drawing Patrick in.

GRANDPA PETE (continuing)

We are not alone.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED:

1

Patrick's eyes widen with wonder....

MAIN TITLE: 'THE BORROWERS'

2 INT. LENDER CORRIDOR - DAY

2

PETE LENDER, Grandpa Pete at age ten, is on his hands and knees in front of an old bird cage.

GRANDPA PETE (V.O.)

I didn't quite know who, or what, or how. But I was young and cocky, and determined to find out.

His room is a young boy's dream. It occupies the entire third floor of the Lender's home, and is packed full of model airplanes, books, miniature trains, and along a whole wall, is a row of stuffed birds, and a case of butterflies.

Inside the bird cage, a small tray hangs from a string. Pete puts a few pieces of candy on the tray.

He pulls open the tiny barred door and hooks it into place with the spring from a ballpoint pen. A trip line connects the doorway to the tray with the bait.

Pete carefully positions his trap near the wall before what looks like a mouse hole.

He picks up his book bag and heads for the door.

GRANDPA PETE (continuing; chuckling)

Back then I thought I was the smartest, quietest, cleverest hunter in the whole world!

3 INT. LENDER HOUSE (STAIRCASE) - DAY

3

Pete sets another trap at the bottom of the stairs. A box is held up by a pencil. The bait is a wedge of stilton.

Pete smiles, satisfied. He picks up his school books and heads for the front door.

VICTORIA

(waiting for him)

Ready for school Pete?

CONTINUED

3.

3 CONTINUED:

3

PETE
(shouting very
deliberately)
Yes Mum, let's go.

FATHER
No need to shout son!

PETE
Sorry Dad.

VICTORIA
Well.... we'd better get going. Your
father and I have a very important
meeting today.

He follows them to the door, glancing over his shoulder.

4 EXT. FRONT DOOR. DAY.

4

They all leave. Pete bangs the door shut, and peddles down
the drive, glancing over his shoulder at the house. Joe and
Victoria climb into the car and drive off.

5 INT. LENDER HOUSE (FOYER) - DAY

5

The room is left silent and still. One of Pete's traps lies
in wait beneath the coat rack.

6 INT. LENDER KITCHEN - DAY

6

The kitchen is empty and perfectly quiet. Another trap has
been set below the washing machine.

7 INT. LENDER LIVING ROOM - DAY

7

Ditto for the living room. This time the trap is on a window
sill.

8 INT. LENDER'S UTILITY ROOM - DAY

8

Like the other rooms, as quiet as a tomb.

A flexible silver venting tube connects the wall to the back
of the dryer.

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED:

8

It starts jiggling up and down, as if something, or someone, were walking the length of it.

The dryer door opens, just an inch or so. A mysterious shadow drifts past the dryer's control panel...

...and disappears behind a metal bookshelf full of "How To" manuals and abandoned cookbooks. One after the other they are pushed forward -- just a bit.

The hem of a long curtain billows slightly as something moves behind it.

A small wave of movement disturbs a pile of loose laundry.

On the other side of the laundry pile, before a low, open window lies another of Pete's traps.

A small red flag has been ingeniously rigged to rise up when the prey is captured.

9 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

9

Through the window we see the bike, abandoned, wheels still spinning. Suddenly Pete's head rises up in the window, scanning the room, excited.

To his delight, he sees his red flag rise up in the utility room window.

PETE

Gotcha!

10 INT. LENDER HOUSE (UTILITY ROOM) - DAY

10

Pete charges into the utility room and checks his trap. The bait is gone and there's nothing inside.

He moves in for a closer look and sees a few gray hairs and a trail of rodent's footprints.

PETE

(disappointed, not
quite buying it)

A mouse...?

He shrugs and checks the other traps on the way to the door. He reluctantly leaves for school.

11 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

11

The kitchen returns to a state of peace. For the moment.

CLACK. A paper clip tied to a string and bent into the shape of a hook catches the lip of a milk jug on the table.

The string begins to vibrate and a tiny man, normal in all respects except for size, climbs into view. This is POD, the borrower's paunchy patriarch.

At his side is a multi-function BORROWING STICK; a wooden staff with a variety of metal attachments, one bearing the imprint of a mouse's foot. He gives it a pat.

POD

Get's 'em every time.

He pulls himself up onto the table and checks to see that the coast is clear.

Getting right to business, Pod crosses the counter and plugs in the mixmaster. He climbs inside the bowl, knots a line around one of the beater blades, and throws it over the edge.

He climbs back out the bowl and stands before the control panel. He pushes down a button marked "low" and the string spools up slowly around the beater.

The line leads over the counter to the floor. The other end has been tied to a yoghurt carton which is being lifted from the ground.

Pod shuts off the mixer as the container reaches the edge of the table. Arietty Clock, a completely fearless twelve year old jumps out.

ARRIETTY

It's borrowing time! Yippee!

She looks around, endlessly curious, while Pod peers down into the yoghurt container.

POD

Get a move on, Peagreen.

PEAGREEN reluctantly drags himself to his feet. He's two years younger than Arietty and less than completely fearless.

PEAGREEN

I feel sick.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED:

11

ARRIETTY

You always feel sick Peagreen!

PEAGREEN

And I'm hungry too!

POD

Come on you two, we have a big day
ahead of us.

PEAGREEN

I hate big days.

12 INT. OFFICE OF OCIOUS P. POTTER 'ATTORNEY AT LAW' - DAY 12

Joe and Victoria sit before a desk facing the back of a tall
leather chair, they look shocked.

VICTORIA AND JOE (in unison)

No will!

In the chair sits Ociuous P. Potter, a villainous looking
lawyer with a permanent sneer.

POTTER (nods sadly)

No will at all, regrettably.

VICTORIA

(can't believe it)

Are you sure Mr. Potter?

POTTER (smiling nastily)

If your Great Aunt Mary had made a
will she would have told her lawyer,
I can assure you.

JOE

But you must know she wanted us to
keep the house!Mr. Potter examines a stack of papers in front of him, as if
balancing the matter.

POTTER

I know nothing of the sort. Your
Great Aunt died intestate.

VICTORIA

What does that mean?

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED:

12

POTTER

It means that as her attorney I have
a duty to settle her debts and
realize her assets,
(shuffling papers)
the most notable of which is the
house.

JOE

(desperate)

Couldn't we buy the house...?

POTTER

With what?

(smiles patronizingly)

I would love to help, but I have
already determined an alternative
plan for the house. It is to be
demolished.

VICTORIA

Demolished! But Mr. Potter, we love
that house. Pete has lived in it all
his life, you can't take it from us.

Potter is unmoved.

POTTER

I suggest you look for somewhere more
commensurate with your resources.

VICTORIA

But we don't have any money!

POTTER

Then you have a problem.

(looks at his watch)

Excuse me, but where there's no will,
there's no way.

13 EXT. POTTER'S OFFICE (PARKING LOT) - DAY

13

A crestfallen Joe and Victoria walk to their car.

JOE

You heard him. He's just doing his
job.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED:

13

VICTORIA

'Doing his job!' He's tearing our house down!

JOE

Pete's going to take this very hard. How could Aunt Mary have forgotten to make a will?

VICTORIA

And what's Mr. Potter going to do with the house now...?

14 INT. POTTER'S OFFICE - DAY

14

Potter zips across the room in his chair and removes the cover from an architect's model with a flourish.

Beneath a plastic dome lies a three-dimensional rendering of the tackiest group of condominiums ever created.

Potter smiles greedily. He smears a little sign with super-glue and sticks it across the model entrance. It reads: 'Welcome to Potter's Apartments.'

POTTER

(to himself)

Today: 'Potter's Apartements.'

POTTER (continuing)

(gluing a little road sign)

Tomorrow:... 'Pottersville!'

Potter joyfully claps his pudgy hands. The first symptoms of what we suspect to be rampant megalomania.

15 INT. KITCHEN CUPBOARD - DAY

15

Pod is tossing grains of rice down to Arrietty. She hands them off to Peagreen who stacks them beside a sack of corn flakes and a barrow full of peanuts.

ARRIETTY

Did that silly boy actually think we would fall for his traps?

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED:

15

POD

Be careful Arrietty, young beans are the most dangerous, believe me.

ARRIETTY

Why's that Dad?

POD (wisely)

Because they believe what they see with their own eyes. Very dangerous that. If you're ever unlucky enough to be 'seen.'

ARRIETTY

Haven't you ever been 'seen' Dad?

POD

Perish the thought, no.

Arrietty's eyes drift to a photograph pinned to the bulletin board. It shows Pete with his family at the zoo.

ARRIETTY (intrigued)

I'd like to meet a bean.

He jumps down to the counter.

POD

Don't joke about such things Arrietty. You'd be squished before you uttered your first word. Beans are nothing but trouble for Borrowers, you remember that young lady.

Pod straps a penlight battery to his back.

POD (continuing)

You and Peagreen pack these things, I've got to change this battery.

He notices a glint in Arrietty's eye.

POD (continuing)

And stay out of trouble.

16 INT. LOWER BEEDING ELEMENTARY - DAY

16

The TEACHER draws a big fish eating a smaller fish on the black-board.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED:

16

TEACHER (mid-lesson)
...and nature is governed by what we
call the 'food chain.'

At the back of the class, Pete is scribbling a tiny mouse stealing various items. He frowns, it doesn't look right somehow.

Meanwhile JIMMY, one of Pete's classmates, tries out his new catapult on the back of another boys head.

TEACHER (continuing)
(turning to class)
Now class, who can tell me what is at
the top of the food chain?

The students raise their hands and shout out suggestions.

KID 1
Lions?

KID 2
Sharks?

PETE
Me.

The class LAUGHS. Pete's neighbour tugs his arm and points out the window.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Joe and Victoria get out of their car and walk towards the school.

Pete watches. He senses that something is wrong.

17 INT. LENDER KITCHEN (CURTAINS) - DAY

17

Pod scales the curtains, battery still strapped to his back. It's a long way up and he's already sweaty and out of breath.

POD
(to himself)
"I'd like to meet a bean." Ha.

On a high shelf above him is his destination, a kitchen radio.

POD (continuing)
What will she think of next!?

18 INT. LENDER KITCHEN - LATER

18

Peagreen and Arrietty are on the counter in front of the freezer looking up in awe.

PEAGREEN

The 'White Tower!' Dad is going to kill us.

ARRIETTY

He's not going to find out.

Arrietty starts to climb using refrigerator magnets for foot holds. Peagreen hesitates.

PEAGREEN

You heard what he said, the white tower is off limits.

ARRIETTY

Aren't you ever curious?

Peagreen gives this a thought.

PEAGREEN

No.

ARRIETTY

And you call yourself a Borrower?

Goaded on, Peagreen starts to climb.

PEAGREEN

No, I don't think I do. I call myself a haver, a watcher, a waiter, someone to brings things to...

(settling on the perfect phrase)

...a... 'brings things to'er.'

19 INT. LENDER KITCHEN (RADIO SHELF) - DAY

19

At the back of the radio, Pod inserts the flat blade of his borrowing stick into the head of a screw and slowly turns it.

20 INT. KITCHEN (TOP OF FREEZER) - DAY

20

Arrietty and Peagreen stand on top of the freezer. Arrietty is using a popsicle stick to pry open the door.

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED:

20

PEAGREEN

You know that no one has ever
returned from the white tower.

ARRIETTY

Peagreen! That's just another one of
Dad's stories.

PEAGREEN

Okay, but it's one of my favorites.

She manages to wedge open the door wide enough to allow a
tiny body to squeeze through.

ARRIETTY

Just make sure the door stays open so
I can get out again.

PEAGREEN

What if you can't get out!? How am
I going to get down again? Arrietty!
You not going in there are you?
Don't do it Arrietty...

Arrietty slips inside the freezer.

PEAGREEN (continuing; shouting)

Arrietty!

ARRIETTY (returning)

What?

PEAGREEN

Get me an ice cream?

She ducks back inside the freezer. Peagreen stands guard.

21 INT. LENDER FREEZER - DAY

21

Arrietty shivers and has a look around. Long overdue for
defrosting, the freezer is a white wonderland of T.V.
dinners, mysterious substances in tupperware, vast snow
covered rolls, and crunchy bags of frozen vegetables.

ARRIETTY

(blowing out a plume
of air)

Peagreen, I can see my own breath!
It's colder than last winter!

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED:

21

Outside:

Peagreen can't see a thing. He leans in a for a better look, reaching out to balance against the popsicle stick.

Peagreen's weight against the pressure from the door causes the stick to SNAP in two.

The door begins to close. Peagreen tries to stop it, but the momentum is too great.

The door SLAMS shut leaving Peagreen dangling with his right arm caught between it and the magnetic seal. Seeing no other option, he HOWLS at the top of his lungs.

PEAGREEN

Dad!

IN THE FREEZER:

The door closes and the lights go out, leaving Arrietty in almost total darkness.

ON THE RADIO SHELF:

Pod has packed on the new battery and is screwing shut the door when he hear's Peagreen's CALL.

He leaps off the shelf, grabs a nearby curtain cord, and slides out of sight.

ON THE COUNTER:

Pod quickly scales the spice rack, getting to Peagreen in no time at all.

POD

What in the world.....!

PEAGREEN

The door closed on my arm, I'm stuck!

Pod pushes the open the door with both feet and pulls Peagreen free.

POD

Where's your sister?

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

PEAGREEN

It wasn't my idea... She made me... I
told her not to...

POD

Peagreen... where is she?

PEAGREEN

(pointing)

In the white tower.

POD

The White Tower!?

(thinking)

And you were supposed to keep the
door open, right?

PEAGREEN (nodding)

I tried. But I'm small and weak,
and a coward.

WHOMP! They hear the sound of the front door being slammed
and look at each other horrified.

POD

The beans are home!

Pod moves into overdrive, handing the battery to Peagreen and
pointing to a small hole behind the blender.

POD (continuing)

Make yourself scarce son. I'll get
Arrietty!

Pod heads to the toaster. He sets the timer to "light" and
pulls down the lever.

22 INT. LENDER KITCHEN - DAY

22

Victoria, Joe and Pete come through the door.

PETE

(very upset)

You said it was just a formality!
How can they make us leave our house?

JOE

It's the law son. Mr. Potter is
legally entitled...

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED:

22

PETE

Mr. Potter! He's already got a house! Why does he want ours?

VICTORIA

(trying another tack)

We'll find somewhere else Pete, it's only a house after all...

But Pete runs upstairs, too upset.

Pod waits on the pop-up lever of the toaster. CLACK! The toaster releases Pod high into the air. He sails across the room and executes a perfect landing in the ice/water recess on the fridge.

On the surface of the fridge:

Pod stands beneath two dispensers, one for ice, the other for water. He cups his hands and WHISPERS up the ice chute.

POD

Arrietty! Arrietty!

Inside the freezer:

ARRIETTY

Dad? Where are you?

POD

(O/s)

I'm down below. The beans have come back. I need you to listen to me very carefully. Look for a chute at the back of the room.

Following the sound of his voice, Arrietty moves aside boxes of frozen peas and other items, heading towards the back.

23 INT. PETE'S ROOM - DAY

23

Pete slams the door behind him and throws himself down on his bed. Tears stream down his face.

PETE

I won't leave! I won't! And you can't make me!

24 INT. KITCHEN. SAME TIME

24

Victoria collapses in a chair.

VICTORIA

Oh dear, what are we going to do?

JOE

We've no choice. We'll start looking for somewhere else tomorrow.

Joe heads for the radio and turns it on. There is no sound. He fiddles with the knobs, searching for a station.

JOE (continuing)

Batttery's gone again. I could swear I just changed it.

FREEZER:

Arrietty stands at the back, beneath the ice maker. A little light creeps up through a cylindrical tunnel at her feet.

ARRIETTY

Okay. Found it.

POD

(O/s)

When I give the word, jump.

In the kitchen:

Joe shrugs and gives up on the radio. He takes a juice glass out of the cupboard.

Dispenser:

Pod watches Joe with concern.

ARRIETTY

(O/s)

Now?

POD

Wait for it, wait for it...

Joe walks to the fridge and reaches for the handle. Pod flattens himself against the wall to avoid being seen.

Joe swings open the door to the fridge. Pod holds on tight and sees something awful. A big brass doorknob coming right towards him.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED:

24

In the kitchen:

Joe stands before the fridge filling the glass with juice. Finished, he closes the door.

IN THE DISPENSER:

Pod is nowhere to be seen. Then, in the plastic ice funnel above the dispenser, we catch sight of him, breathing a sigh of relief, having narrowly escaped disaster.

He jumps down, returning to the platform beneath.

POD (continuing)
(calling up)
Okay, now!

FREEZER:

Arrietty takes a deep breath and jumps.

ICE CHUTE:

Arrietty rockets down the curving chute, smiling from ear to ear. This girl was made for speed.

VICTORIA (V/O)
I don't trust Mr. Potter, Joe, there's something about him.

JOE
What do you expect, he's a lawyer.

Joe, realising he has no ice in the juice, heads back towards the fridge.

Dispenser:

Pod reacts with terror as he sees the juice glass coming right towards him. He pulls himself up into the ice funnel and braces his feet against the edge.

Arrietty slides down right into his arms.

ARRIETTY (sheepishly)
Hi Dad, not mad at me, are you?

Pod says nothing. They look down. A reservoir of juice is being pushed against the lever beneath them.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

The ice machine BUZZES. A THUNDERING ICE FLOW is heard from above. Caught between the cubes and the glass of juice, Pod and Arrietty have nowhere to hide.

Thinking fast, Pod jams his borrowing stick into the chute above. The ice flow is halted just in time.

Kitchen:

Joe stands at the dispenser, a perplexed look is on his face. He can hear the ice running, but nothing comes out.

JOE

Why is it nothing works in this house?

VICTORIA

That's one thing we won't have to worry about for much longer.

Joe hands the glass to Victoria.

DISPENSER:

Pod and Arrietty jump down to the dispenser.

KITCHEN:

Joe opens the refrigerator door to have a look.

DISPENSER:

Arrietty and Pod leap onto the counter as the door swings towards it. They quickly disappear through the hole in the wall behind the blender.

Finding nothing wrong, Joe shuts the refrigerator door, frustrated. The moment he turns his back, twenty ice cubes shoot out of the dispenser and onto the floor.

Joe notices something strange amongst them. It's Pod's borrowing stick.

25 INT. HALL. DAY.

25

A big old grandfather clock slowly ticks away the minutes. CAMERA drops down, through the floor beneath it, to reveal...

26 INT. BORROWER'S HOME - DAY

26

...the miniature, amazing home of the 'Clocks.' Artfully decorated with borrowed items, and for the moment lit by a solitary, towering candle.

HOMILY, Pod's wife, polishes a statue of a wooden horse (actually a chess piece).

HOMILY
(nervous)

Where are they? What can have happened to them?

Peagreen roasts an enormous marshmallow with a three-pronged toasting fork made from needles and a pin.

PEAGREEN

I don't know. What time's dinner?

Pod and Arrietty burst in to the kitchen, puffing.

HOMILY

There you are! Thank the Lord.

(hugs them
emotionally)

You had me that worried, I thought you'd both been squished!

Pod places the new battery in the generator.

POD

Don't fuss Ma, everything's alright.

ARRIETTY

Yeah, apart from the fact I'm grounded for a month!

POD

You were that close to being 'seen.'
You could've been squished!

HOMILY

(puts a hand to her
mouth)

Oh Pod don't!

POD

Sorry Ma, but how can i take her borrowing if she's always getting into Pickles?

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED:

26

Pod places the new battery between the terminals. Arrietty looks daggers at Peagreen.

PEAGREEN

Sorry Arietty... I tried to... the door was too heavy... I was scared... did you get the ice-cream?

ARRIETTY

(ignoring Peagreen)

Look, what if I promised it won't happen again?

HOMILY

No bargaining Arietty. You've got to learn to be cautious.

Pod throws a massive switch. The home is suddenly flooded with light from a string of white Christmas tree bulbs.

ARRIETTY

But a month! I'll go crazy in here!

POD

No buts. Now go to your room.

27 INT. ARRIETTY'S ROOM - DAY

27

She enters, slams the door behind her, and throws herself down on the bed.

ARRIETTY

Bored, bored, bored, bored, _bored!

A mischievous look appears on her face. She reaches under the bed and drags out a rubber doll about the same size as herself.

She puts it in her bed and tucks the covers around it. Then she picks up half a birthday candle, and a match.

Her walls are decorated with postage stamps. Pride of place is a portrait of Queen Victoria (an old penny black). She presses it. It swings up to reveal a hole just large enough for a borrower to crawl through.

She disappears and the stamp swings back into place.

28 INT. CRAWL SPACE. DAY.

28

Arrietty drags a match across the surface of a brick and lights her candle. She extinguishes the match in a bottle cap of water, and crawls off.

29 INT. PETE'S ROOM - DAY

29

Pete lies on the bed, still upset but running out of tears. He suddenly stares at the chessboard beside the bed, and stops crying. One black 'rook' is missing.

He gets up from his bed, and looks beneath the beside table, but the rook is nowhere in sight. He checks his traps, but they are empty.

Beneath him, unseen, a spot of light moves beneath the floorboards.

30 INT. BORROWER'S HOME - DAY

30

Pod whittles himself a new borrowing-stick, while Homily carves a roasted peanut.

POD

She's too wild Ma. She has to learn to live by the rules.

HOMILY

(smiles)

She takes after her father.

Peagreen brightens.

PEAGREEN

Dad!? Dad was wild!?

Peagreen giggles. From his knitted slippers to his well filled waistcoat, the last thing Pod Clock is, is wild.

POD

As a matter of fact I did have what you might call a rebellious phase.

PEAGREEN (sarcastic)

Yeah right Dad.

Pod looks at the clock on the wall.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED:

30

POD

Oh my gosh, is it Wednesday?

Homily hurries to her seat at the table. The three of them belt themselves into their chairs.

The whole house begins to shake and shudder violently like a terrible earthquake.

31 INT. LENDER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

31

Victoria is upstairs with her Hoover, vacuuming the carpets.

32 INT. BORROWER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

32

Napkins fly to the ceiling. Pod, Homily, and Peagreen hold tight to the edge of the table as their hair is pulled skyward.

33 INT. PETE'S ROOM - DAY

33

Pete is tossing things out of his closet, searching for his rook, when something catches his eye; the small light is now flickering behind the wall beside him.

He watches the light as it moves from the closet to the adjacent wall. The light appears and disappears following a diagonal path until it vanishes behind the bookshelf.

He starts removing books, trying to locate the light.

BEHIND THE WALL: Arrietty can see Pete's hulking silhouette through a tiny crack. She quickly blows out her candle.

AT THE BOOKSHELF: Pete stops, puzzled, the light has disappeared.

JOE (at doorway)

Have you lost something?

PETE

Yeah, I can't find my rook.

Pete turns round, giving Arietty a moment to crawl from behind the wall onto the bookshelf.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED:

33

ON THE BOOKSHELF: She walks into the middle of a regiment painted tin soldiers, about her height.

ARRIETTY

(whispers)

Hello Men, mind if I join you for a moment?

The soldiers say nothing. She stands still in their midst.

PETE'S ROOM:

Joe brings out Pod's borrowing stick.

JOE

You're losing a lot of things today.

Pete takes the stick from Joe. He looks at it, puzzled.

JOE (continuing)

I found it in the ice-box.

PETE (pretending to recognise it)

Oh yeah, sorry Dad.

Joe puts his hand on his shoulder.

JOE

Don't worry. We'll find somewhere just as nice as this one. I promise.

PETE

Somewhere with a garden, and an attic, and room for all my toys?

Joe looks round at the hundreds of toys, books, junk and stuffed animals.

JOE

(uncertain)

Well I don't know son, we may not be able to take everything...

PETE

(bravely)

Oh. I see.

Joe sighs and leaves, closing the door behind him.

ON THE SHELF:

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

ARRIETTY
(to herself)
The beans are moving?

This is important news. She jumps up and spins round, coming face to face with a freshly painted model of a dinosaur.

Arrietty panics, jumps back and knocks into the soldier behind her. She tries to grab him, but he slips over the edge of the shelf.

ARRIETTY (continuing)
Oh no!

PETE'S ROOM:

Pete turns on his heels and watches as the soldier bounces from shelf to shelf to shelf and clatters on the floor.

ON THE BOOKSHELF:

Arrietty looks up sees Pete looking in her direction. She jumps back into the toys.

PETE
Ah ha!

Pete makes a beeline for the bookshelf.

ON THE SHELF:

Arrietty has taken shelter in a partitioned box of toy cars.

Pete climbs on top of a chair. He reaches up and gropes around the top shelf, opening the box of toy cars.

IN THE BOX OF CARS: Arrietty is crouched behind a tow truck. She can see Pete's distorted head looming through the toy's windshield. She watches him turn and look to a lower shelf.

Assuming the coast is clear, she crawls out of the plastic box only to find Pete staring right at her, gazing at the most amazing sight he's ever seen.

A girl littler than his littlest finger.

Pete GASPS. Arrietty SCREAMS.

He grabs an empty jam jar and tries to trap her, but she runs in the other direction, leaping off the back of the shelf...

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

...on to the top of an encyclopedia, letter "A." She starts jumping from book to book, through the alphabet.

Pete sees her. He pulls out encyclopedia "L." creating a chasm in front of her. She turns back the other way. Pete pulls out encyclopedia "H." trapping her on "I." "J." and "K."

He raises the jam jar, Arrietty shuts her eyes and braces herself for annihilation.

ARRIETTY

Go on, get it over with.

Pete freezes, stunned.

PETE

You can talk!

ARRIETTY

Of course I can, you big clumsy bean.
Now, go ahead and do it.

PETE

Wow, a talking... 'thing.' Go ahead
and do what?

ARRIETTY

Squish me.

Pete puts down the jam jar, a little ashamed.

PETE

Squish you? I wasn't going to squish
you. I just wanted to catch you.
(triumphant)
I knew it wasn't mice.

ARRIETTY

Your kind squishes first and asks
questions later. Everyone knows that.

Pete steps back, shocked.

PETE

No we don't.

ARRIETTY

And what about all those traps you've
been setting? It's pretty clear that
beans do not like little creatures.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED: (4)

33

PETE

Why do you keep calling me a bean?

ARRIETTY

Because that's what you are: a human bean.

PETE

(smiles)

Uh, I think you mean a human 'Being.'

Pete puts the enclyclopedia back in front of her.

PETE (continuing)

Look, I'm sorry about the traps. If I'd known everything was being stolen by a tiny, talking, 'thing'...

ARRIETTY

How dare you! We're not 'things!' We do not steal. We are 'borrowers,' and you are our 'bean.' You exist solely to provide us with things to borrow.

PETE

Who told you that!?

ARRIETTY

(defiantly)

My Dad!

PETE

Well he's wrong. Human beans, I mean beings, are top of the food chain!

PETE (continuing)

(smugly)

I learnt that at school.

ARRIETTY

(confused)

Look will you please let me go!

He carries her to an empty goldfish bowl beside his bed. He angles the books. Arrietty slides down the pages and lands hard on her backside, on the fake blue rocks at the bottom.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED: (5)

33

PETE

Not until you tell me where you come from?

ARRIETTY

Where do you think I come from?

PETE

Outer space?

ARRIETTY

Don't be silly. The 'clocks' have lived under the big clock for as long as anyone can remember.

PETE

You've got a family?

ARRIETTY

Of course. There's my Dad, Pod Clock, my mother Homily, and my younger brother Peagreen. Peagreen isn't really a borrower, I mean technically he is, but he thinks he's a bring-things-toer... Look I must get back, I must tell them all about the new beans!

PETE

New beans?

ARRIETTY

You're moving out and new beans are moving in. We must be prepared. Let's hope they're not too tidy, or that they don't have a cat!

PETE (sadly)

There won't be new beans, the house is going to be demolished.

Arrietty is horrified. There's a stunned silence.

ARRIETTY

'Demolished?' Why?

PETE

My Great Aunt left us the house but she didn't write it down.

(more)

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED: (6)

33

PETE (cont'd)
So now it belongs to Mr. Potter, and
he's going to demolish it.

ARRIETTY
But what about us!? What about our
house?

PETE
Everything.

ARRIETTY
This is a disaster!

PETE
You'll have to move too.
(thinks)
Maybe I could help.

ARRIETTY
Help. You?

CUT TO:

34 INT. BORROWER'S HOME - THAT NIGHT

34

POD
(outraged)
A bean!? A human bean? Have you
gone out of your mind!?

ARRIETTY
He said it was 'being' Dad.

HOMILY
Don't contradict your father dear.
My own daughter talking to a bean!
Oh my! What is the world coming to?

Pod, Homily, Arrietty, and Peagreen in the middle of an
emergency family meeting...

ARRIETTY
I had no choice. I was 'seen'
remember. And he really wants to
help us!

CONTINUED

34 CONTINUED:

34

POD

You can't trust beans Arrietty,
haven't I taught you anything?

ARRIETTY

I know, but, we don't have a choice,
do we?

Pause. They consider this.

HOMILY

Oh dear oh dear! And just when I was
getting the place looking nice as
well.

35 EXT. PETE'S HOUSE - SOME DAYS LATER

35

A large van with 'Harry's Removals' written across the side
is parked outside the house. It's moving day.

36 INT. LENDER HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

36

Victoria and Joe pack the remaining items into tea-chests.

37 INT. BORROWER'S HOME - DAY

37

Likewise The Borrowers, but they are packing everything into
matchboxes, measuring cups, and special items in a tiny
inlaid jewellery box.

Pod is struggling with a glass elephant.

HOMILY

Careful with that Pod! That's an
'Overmantle' heirloom.

POD

As you never cease to remind me!
Exactly how many more of your
heirlooms are there Homily!?

HOMILY

Well really! I can't help it if my
family left me lots of antiques. We
had a certain position Pod.

CONTINUED

30.

37 CONTINUED:

37

POD

Over the mantle, yes I know Love.

HOMILY

(a tear forming)

If my dear Mama could see me now, an
Overmantle taking to the open road!

Pod loads the jewellery box into a lift made from a sardine
can, powered by the electric motor taken from an abandoned
toy car.

POD

It's putting our faith in that young
bean that worries me.

ARRIETTY

But he gave me his word everything
would be okay.

POD

Ha! A bean's word is about as
reliable as a pair of paper trousers!

38 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

38

Pete looks out the front window, and sees that his parents
are busy repacking the van.

He crosses the room and heads down the basement stairs, a
plastic ice cream tubs tucked under his arm.

39 INT. LENDER BASEMENT - DAY

39

The room is lit by high casement windows. Pete climbs up onto
a work table, taps lightly on a heating duct, and carefully
opens an access panel.

Seconds later, Pod, Homily, Arrietty, and Peagreen descend
into view. They are riding their sardine can lift along with
all their belongings.

Pete opens the ice cream tub. He has fashioned the interior
into a deluxe borrower transport.

POD

What in skirting's name is that!?

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED:

39

PETE

It's your transporter. I made it myself. Look, I put seat belts in, in case it gets bumpy.

Pod gives it a very wary once over.

PETE (continuing)

And there's some food in there.

PEAGREEN

Food? Where?

They climb inside, Peagreen heads for the food.

ARRIETTY

It's great isn't it? Look Dad, a water dispenser. You always said you'd make us one of those.

Pod tests the strength of the wall with his boot.

POD

And how far do you expect us to go in this contraption?

PETE

The new house is just two streets away, next to the old church on Spencer Crescent.

ARRIETTY

Two streets, you see! That's not far!

HOMILY

Arrietty, do you happen to know how large a street is?

ARRIETTY

(cheerfully)

No.

POD

Far enough!

(looks Pete in the eye)

Listen up bean. I'm only agreeing to this because my daughter says you're not like other beans.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

Pete nods, and pulls Pod's borrowing stick out of his pocket. He hands it over to Pod.

PETE
You forgot this.

POD (takes stick)
Thanks. But if anything should
happen to my family,
(waves stick at Pete)
I'm holding you personally
responsible, understand?

40 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

40

Pete runs towards the removals van, checking both ways to make sure no one is watching.

In the ice cream tub:

The Borrowers are tossed back and forth with every step. Homily looks frightened. Peagreen has his head between his knees, groaning.

HOMILY
(weeping)
Oh Pod...

POD
I don't like this...

PEAGREEN
I feel sick...

Arrietty holds her hands up in the air like a reckless roller coaster rider.

ARRIETTY
Isn't this fun?

41 INT. REMOVAL TRUCK - DAY

41

Victoria helps Joe push their refrigerator into place in the truck.

JOE
That's the last of it.

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED:

41

They jump down and head for the cab.

Pete climbs into the back of the van, looking for a place to stow the ice cream tub. He opens the top drawer of a dresser.

He puts the tub inside the drawer and is about to close it when a thought occurs to him.

PETE (to himself)

Too obvious.

He takes the drawer out, puts the tub in behind it, and re-inserts the drawer gently, leaving it sticking out about five inches.

INSIDE THE ICE-CREAM TUB:

POD

I hope the bean knows what he's doing!?

42 EXT. REMOVALS VAN (CAB) - DAY

42

Victoria and Joe are waiting. Pete hops up and slides in next to them.

Joe puts the van into drive. The gears grind.

VICTORIA

Do you want me too drive darling?

Joe looks annoyed and finally gets the van into drive. It lurches forward.

43 INT. REMOVALS VAN - DAY

43

Causing the refridgerator to slam into the drawer. Squashing the ice-cream tub behind it.

44 INT. ICE CREAM TUB - DAY

44

Forced into half its original space, the ice-cream tub has folded in the middle. Pod and Homily are up-ended on one side of the crease.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED:

44

POD (bitterly to himself)
 'Everything will be okay he says,'
 'no problems he says...' I knew it!

HOMILY

Arrietty, Peagreen? Are you all right?

Arrietty and Peagreen are suspended on the other side of the folded ice-cream tub.

ARRIETTY (o/s)

We're fine.

PEAGREEN

Speak for yourself!

45 INT. REMOVALS VAN (CARGO) - DAY

45

The truck lurches forward and the refrigerator slides back another inch.

INSIDE THE ICE-CREAM TUB:

Arrietty and Peagreen's space is reduced still further, pressing them flat against one another.

ARRIETTY

Good fun isn't it?

PEAGREEN

I want to go home.

46 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

46

Joe steers the van across the lawn, heading for the street.

PETE

Dad! Can you drive a bit more carefully!?

The front wheels drop over the edge of a curb.

47 INT. REMOVALS VAN (CARGO) - DAY

47

The refrigerator SLAMS the drawer completely shut. The board at the back of the dresser SPLINTERS and the ice cream tub SPILLS out, tipping Arrietty and Peagreen over the edge.

CONTINUED

47 CONTINUED:

47

Pod and Homily are left in the remnants of the plastic tub.
Arrietty and Peagreen land on a roll of carpet, bounce off,
and wind up splayed on the wooden floor of the van.
Pod hurries down the trim at the corner of the dresser.

POD

Arrietty! Peagreen! Are you all
right down there?

ARRIETTY

We're fine!

Peagreen shakes himself down.

PEAGREEN

I hate moving house!

48 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

48

As the van hits the street, the back wheels come off the edge
of the curb.

49 INT. REMOVALS VAN (CARGO) - DAY

49

Sending Arrietty and Peagreen tumbling forward towards a wide
gap in the floor.

POD

What idiot bean is driving this
thing!?

He dives to try and grab hold of them, but can't quite get
there in time.

Arrietty and Peagreen fall through and disappear.

50 INT. REMOVALS VAN (CAB) - DAY

50

Joe hits the breaks and stops the van at the entrance to the
street, pausing to look both ways.

51 EXT REMOVALS VAN (UNDERCARRIAGE) - DAY

51

Arrietty lands on the soft grass beneath the stopped vehicle. She looks around for her brother.

ARRIETTY

Peagreen?

She sees Peagreen perched precariously on the greasy drive shaft of the van, his feet slipping as if on ice.

Up above, Pod thrusts his hand through the gap, reaching out to him.

POD

Peagreen, take my hand!

Peagreen reaches up. A HISS signals the release of the van's air brakes. The drive shaft begins to turn.

Peagreen runs in place like a log roller. Pod tries to grab hold as he flails his hands madly.

Unable to keep up, Peagreen is thrown into a patch of mud.

He rises to his feet and looks around. He does not see the massive double wheels of the van rolling towards him.

Arrietty does.

ARRIETTY

Look out!

Peagreen turns too late. There's nowhere to run to. He covers his head with his hands, and screams.

Arrietty can't look, she turns away. The truck rolls over Peagreen and RUMBLES away down the road.

Arrietty gathers the courage to look back.

Peagreen is still standing; a soundless scream on his lips. He opens his eyes. He's standing between two indentations made by the passing tires. He drops his arms and looks around.

PEAGREEN

Am I squished? Is this heaven?

(noticing Arrietty)

No such luck.

52 INT. REMOVALS VAN (CARGO) - DAY

52

As the van accelerates up the street, Pod helps Homily out of the mangled ice cream tub.

HOMILY

My babies! What happened to them!?

Pod puts his arm around her and holds her tight.

POD

Don't worry love, I saw them as we pulled away.

HOMILY

But they're just children Pod, out there all alone!

POD

Yes, but they're our children aren't they? They'll know what to do.

Homily calms a bit. Pod draws his hat pin and tests the tip for sharpness.

POD (continuing)

As sure as my name is Pod Clock we'll get them back.

53 INT. BORROWER'S HOUSE - DAY

53

Arrietty and Peagreen walk into their empty former home. Peagreen wipes mud off his clothes while Arrietty paces.

ARRIETTY

Think, think, think.

PEAGREEN

Yes, think where we might have left some food.

Arrietty has a thought. She turns to the wall and tears back a piece of the bank note wallpaper, to reveal a street plan of the town, on the back of a church fete flyer.

PEAGREEN (continuing)

What's that?

ARRIETTY

It's a map of the world.

CONTINUED

53 CONTINUED:

53

She picks up the stub of an eyebrow pencil and points.

ARRIETTY (continuing)
We're here. And Pete said the new
house was next to a church. There --

She finds a picture of a small chapel with the name "Old Church" written under it. It features a tall, mediaeval spire.

She draws a solid line between the Lender's house and the church, then looks at the scale.

ARRIETTY (continuing)
About one mile. See?

PEAGREEN
What's a mile?

ARRIETTY
I don't know. It can't be far.

PEAGREEN
Not far if you're a giant! We're not
going outside Arrietty! We went
outside and look what happened? We
lost our parents and were run over by
a truck. And we were only there for
five minutes! Outside is full of
danger, disaster, unbalanced beans...

ARRIETTY
...don't forget the wild animals.

PEAGREEN
...and wild animals, thank you.

Peagreen realizes the more dangerous he make it sound, the more excited Arrietty becomes.

PEAGREEN (continuing)
Arrietty! Apart from anything else,
we have no food!

54 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

54

Ocious. P. Potter steps out of a shiny black car and looks around to make sure no one is watching, clearly up to no good,

55 INT. BORROWER'S HOUSE - DAY

55

Arrietty and Peagreen are making a pack from some items left behind when their house is shaken by a SLAMMING door.

ARRIETTY

Ssshh, what's that?

56 INT. LENDER HOUSE (HALL) - DAY

56

Potter walks into the hall, sets his briefcase down and opens it. He takes out a stethoscope, a hammer, and a blueprint of the Lender's house. At the same time he mutters to himself:

POTTER (Imitating Aunt Mary)

I don't trust banks Mr. Potter, so
I've hidden my will in the old house.

(himself)

Very wise Mrs. Alabaster, very wise.

An area has been circled in red pen. He picks up the blueprint and orientates himself.

BEHIND A VENT:

Arrietty and Peagreen are watching Potter. He is TAPPING against the wall with his hammer.

POTTER (continuing; as Aunt Mary)

I have left the house to my young
niece and her family, and enough
money to keep the place up. You will
make sure they get it won't you Mr.
Potter.

(himself again)

Consider it done Mrs. Alabaster...

A HOLLOW sound. He stops TAPPING.

Using the claw end of the hammer, Potter clears away a section of plaster, revealing a small safe.

POTTER (continuing; excited)

You can trust me Mrs. Alabaster...

He puts his stethoscope against wall of the safe, turns the combination dial, and listens for the tumblers to fall.

POTTER (continuing)

...I'm a lawyer.

CONTINUED

56 CONTINUED:

56

ARRIETTY
What's he doing?

PEAGREEN
I don't know.

AT THE SAFE:

Potter hears little VOICES through his stethoscope. He pauses, decides he just imagined them, and presses on.

The final tumbler CLICKS into place. He turns the handle and the safe opens. He slides out a steel box, and opens the lid. Inside are letters and papers, yellowed with age.

Arrietty and Peagreen have a good view of the document in Potter's pudgy hands. Across the top is written:

The Last Will and Testament of:

Mary B. Alabaster.

ARRIETTY
The will!

PEAGREEN
Oh. What's a will?

ARRIETTY
I don't know, something important.

Hearing voices again, Potter turns towards the vent. He sees nothing. Arrietty and Peagreen have disappeared.

Potter rubs his ears. He takes out his portable phone and makes a call.

POTTER
Potter here. I want you to proceed with the demolition immediately. Yes today! I don't care how short notice it is, I want this house raised to the ground, and I want it done now!
(hangs up)
Small town Idiots!

BEHIND THE VENT:

CONTINUED

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

ARRIETTY (working it out)
Mr. Potter! He's the man who forcing
us out of our home! C'mon Peagreen...

She takes off running. Peagreen is right behind her.

ARRIETTY (continuing)
...we've got to get that will to Pete!

57 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

57

Potter holds an expensive lighter under the will and flicks it several times. Nothing happens.

He tosses the lighter aside and puts the will down on the fireplace mantle. He looks around for a book of matches.

Behind him, the will begins to move across the mantle and onto a piece of trim above the wainscotting.

Potter opens a drawer and finds some matches. He turns back, but much to his surprise, the will is gone.

He pats his pockets, looks around the room, and his jaw drops.

The will is moving, seemingly by its own volition, across the trim along the wall.

POTTER (incredulously)
What the....

It pauses before a vent and is quickly pulled through.

For a moment, Potter can't believe his eyes. He crouches down beside the vent.

He hears FOOTFALLS from the other side of the skirting.

He quickly puts on his stethoscope, presses it against the floorboards and listens.

WHAT HE HEARS:

PEAGREEN (o/s)
Do you think we were seen?

ARRIETTY (o/s)
I don't know.

58 INT. BASEMENT - DAY

58

Potter throws open the basement door, ready for a fight.

POTTER

All right, who's down here? Come on,
show yourselves.

There's no one there. Puzzled, he heads back up the stairs.

59 INT. BORROWER'S HOUSE - DAY

59

Arrietty and Peagreen are trying to fold the will into a smaller bundle. They jump and down on it.

PEAGREEN

Why would that ugly man lie about the
will Arrietty?

Arrietty shakes her head.

ARRIETTY

You heard what Dad said. Beans can't
be trusted.

PEAGREEN

What about that boy, we're trusting
him aren't we?

ARRIETTY

He's different.

60 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

60

Potter has his stethoscope to the floor and has heard every word they've said.

POTTER

'Ugly!' Who are they calling ugly?

He takes out his hammer and uses it to pry up a floorboard.

61 INT. BORROWER'S KITCHEN - DAY

61

Potter's fat fingers thrust between the loosened boards above Peagreen and Arrietty's heads. They scream in terror.

Peagreen is knocked to one side of the room. Arrietty trapped the other.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED:

61

PEAGREEN (trapped beneath a finger)
Arrietty! Help!

She grabs the three pronged toasting fork and plunges it into the finger.

POTTER (O.S.)
Ow!!

The finger quickly jerks out of the room. They grab the will and take off down a dark corridor.

62 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

62

Potter pulls the tiny toasting fork out of his finger.

POTTER
The nasty little vermits!!

He tears out a large section of the floor, revealing the Borrower's home in its entirety.

POTTER (continuing)
What the...

He kneels down for a closer look. What he sees astounds him: Tiny doors, leading to tiny rooms. Almost a replica of the full-size house.

POTTER (continuing)
But that's.... impossible!

He notices quarter-inch footprints in the dust which lead to a hole in the wall. He takes out his phone and dials.

63 EXT. OLD CHURCH - DAY

63

The Lender's van drives past the chapel and pulls up before a long row of horribly new and horribly identical houses.

JOE (trying to be cheerful)
Here we are then! Home!

They hop out. Pete immediately heads for the back of the van, but Victoria steers him in the other direction.

CONTINUED

44.

63 CONTINUED:

63

VICTORIA
There's plenty of time to unpack.
Come and see your room.

64 INT. NEW HOUSE - DAY

64

Joe and Victoria swing open the door and show Pete inside.

JOE
What do you think?

VICTORIA
It's not too bad is it?

Pete's face drops, his worst fears realized. The house is so modern it doesn't even have floorboards.

PETE
It's a concrete floor. How could
you!?

At this Pete runs out of the room, desperate.

JOE
What's that all about?

65 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

65

A truck pulls up in front of the waiting Potter. Mounted on the truck's roof is a large rubber rat frozen in a terrified pose.

A sign on the door reads:

Exterminator Jeff

"The Pests' Pest."

Out steps EXTERMINATOR JEFF himself. Tall, rake-thin, and clean as a whistle in his white coveralls and matching cap.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Hello Uncle Ocious. Long time no see
eh!

He holds out a hand to Potter, but it's not shaken.

CONTINUED

65 CONTINUED:

65

POTTER

Listen Jeff. I called you in your capacity as a...

(reads the label)

'Pest Control Operative.' The fact that we are distantly related is immaterial, and frankly, a constant source of irritation.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

(a bit hurt by this)

Oh. You said it was an emergency...

POTTER

Yes, my house appears to be infested.

Jeff opens a side panel on his truck.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

What kind of creepy crawlies are we dealing with exactly?

POTTER

You're the expert. You tell me.

Jeff straps on a sinister looking fumigating tank.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Well, worry not. Whether it slithers, flies, walks, creeps, or crawls --

He brandishes the nozzle like an M-16.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (continuing)

It's mine!

66 INT. LENDER HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

66

Arrietty and Peagreen are climbing the wall, having strapped whatever equipment they could find on their backs. Some string, a few buttons, and some push pins, and the will.

Hearing something, Arrietty peers through a crack. She sees Potter and Exterminator Jeff come through the front door.

ARRIETTY

He's brought reinforcements. Quick.

67 INT. LENDER HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

67

Potter leads Exterminator Jeff to the Borrower's little house. Immediately his eyes light up with glee.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Borrowers!

POTTER

What?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Borrowers, tiny people. I'd heard the stories, passed down from Exterminator to Exterminator, but I thought that's just what they were, stories, like the fly with the human head, and the...

POTTER (holds up a hand)

Jeff, spare me the folklore will you. The point is: Can you exterminate them?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (shocked)

Exterminate them? 'Exterminate them' is my middle name.

He hands Potter a printed card reading: 'JEFF 'EXTERMINATE THEM' POTTER at your service.'

POTTER

Well? What are you waiting for?

Jeff gets to work, shoving the fumigating nozzle into the Borrower's home and pulling the lever. Thick white foam shoots out, rapidly filling every nook and cranny.

68 INT. COPPER WATER PIPE - DAY

68

Arietty waits while Peagreen has a rest.

PEAGREEN

I'm tired Arrietty. And hungry. And scared.

ARRIETTY

Ssshh. Do you hear that?

PEAGREEN

No --

CONTINUED

68 CONTINUED:

68

He looks down. A huge cloud of white foam is expanding towards them.

PEAGREEN (continuing)
But I see it, run!

69 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

69

Exterminator Jeff is spraying away. The Borrowers' home has been completely filled up. Potter notices foam seeping through tiny cracks in the floor. He smiles.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Insecticide foam X-tron B. A
borrower's nightmare.

70 INT. LENDER'S WALL - DAY

70

Arrietty and Peagreen are scaling the exposed laths in the plaster wall. The foam continues to pursue them, now from beneath.

They're tiring, foam right beneath Peagreen's feet.

PEAGREEN
I can't go any further Arrietty.

Arrietty sees a sliver of light ahead.

ARRIETTY
Come on, just a little bit more

A loose piece of trim is the source of the light. Arrietty pushes on it, creating enough space for Peagreen to crawl through. She slips through after him.

OUTSIDE:

They find themselves on a tiny ledge, the bracket to a drain sprout. There is hardly enough room for both of them to stand.

The foam continues after them, spilling out through the crack along the trim.

Arrietty and Peagreen watch in terror as a bulb of foam comes towards them, bubbles out, then stops.

71 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

71

Potter is getting impatient. He leans over Jeff.

POTTER (pointing)
You missed a bit.

Exterminator Jeff pulls his nozzle out of the floor and has a look, not realizing that foam continues to shoot from the end, covering Potter's head with a thick layer of the stuff.

Potter SCREAMS.

POTTER (continuing)
Ahhhhh!

72 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

72

Arrietty and Peagreen scale up the corrugated metal of the drain pipe.

A long greenhouse spans the distance between the Lender's house and a similar one behind it.

ARRIETTY
That way.

A laundry line threaded through two pulleys leads to the greenhouse. The only way.

PEAGREEN
No, Arrietty. I can't do it.

ARRIETTY
Peagreen, if we stay here we'll be squished for sure.

PEAGREEN
(looking at the garden)
And if we go there...?

ARRIETTY
(frightened as well)
...we only might get squashed.

PEAGREEN
It's not much of a choice is it.

73' INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

73

Potter is on the floor, writhing in pain. Exterminator Jeff is trying with both hands to remove the hardened mask of foam from his face.

POTTER

Get it off me you idiot, it's burning!

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Alright, keep still!

Exterminator Jeff slams his foot against Potter's chest, pinning him to the floor. POP! The mask comes free.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (continuing)

Sorry about that, but you should never crowd an exterminator in mid-foam, you know.

Exterminator Jeff falls back. Potter feels his face, bright red and missing hair and eyebrows.

POTTER

My eyebrows? What have you done to my eyebrows?

Jeff sneaks a look inside the mask. There is hair, eyebrows, and some eyelashes. Jeff looks away.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Nothing. You look fine.

74 EXT. NEW HOUSE - DAY

74

Pete walks disconsolately to the back of the van, wondering what to tell the borrowers.

He pulls out the ice cream tub and sees the damage. He searches desperately, but the Borrowers are nowhere in sight.

PETE (heartbroken)

What have I done?

Pod and Homily come out of hiding. Pod has his hat pin at his side, Homily's face is tear-stained.

POD

Made a great mess of everything, that's what.

CONTINUED

74 CONTINUED:

74

PETE

What happened? Where are Arrietty and
Peagreen?

HOMILY

They're lost --

PETE

Lost!?

POD

Yes, thanks to you and your
'transporter.'

(menacingly)

I warned you bean.

PETE

I'll find them.

POD

No. We'll find them. From now on
I'm calling the shots, got it?

Pete nods.

75. EXT. NEW HOUSE - DAY

75

Pete rides his bike down the ramp of the removal van. A
water bottle has been strapped to the top of his helmet with
duct tape.

INSIDE THE WATER BOTTLE: Pod and Homily have a grandstand
view through holes in the water-bottle.

PETE (into the helmet)

Where to Mr. Clock?

POD

Back to our house, pronto.

Pete peddles off. Victoria steps out of the front door.

VICTORIA (shouts)

Pete! Where are you going?

PETE (over shoulder)

I forgot something!

CONTINUED

75 CONTINUED:

75

INSIDE THE WATER BOTTLE: Pod clasps Homily's hand as they set off up the road.

76 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

76

Potter removes a loose board from the wall and starts pulling out chunks of foam, searching for the borrowers.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Have you lost something Uncle?

POTTER

Yes, they stole something from me.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Don't you mean 'borrowed?'
(laughs at his joke)

POTTER

No I mean stole. Now help me with this you idiot..

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

(hurt)

It wouldn't hurt to say please once in a while you know.

POTTER

Do me a favour and shut up!

Potter hears a CREAKING noise from outside.

POTTER (continuing)

What's that?

Potter and Jeff rush to the window and pause in frozen awe at their first actual sighting of a borrower.

77 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

77

Arrietty and Peagreen balancing on the laundry line, make their way toward the garden wall.

78 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

78

Potter tries to force open the window. It's stuck.

CONTINUED

52.

78 CONTINUED:

78

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
(lost in awe)
Look at the little things...

79 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

79

Arrietty and Peagreen pass the greenhouse far below. Behind them Potter tries to wrench the window open.

ARRIETTY (sees Potter)
Faster!

They reach the end of the line and jump onto the greenhouse roof.

80 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

80

Potter and Exterminator Jeff race down the stairs.

81 EXT. STREET - DAY

81

Pete is peddling fast. Suddenly Pod spies something.

POD (shouts)
Hold it!

Pete screeches to stop.

PETE
What is it?

Pod points to discarded crisp packet on the side of the road.

POD
Pick that up will you!

HOMILY
Pod! This is no time to be borrowing.

POD
Trust me.

82 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

82

Arrietty takes Peagreen's hand and leads him carefully across the sloping glass panels, they're slick with dew.

83 INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

83

Exterminator Jeff and Potter burst through the door of the greenhouse and scan the roof.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

There!

High up above are Arrietty and Peagreen's tiny shadows. Jeff jumps up, but the ceiling is far beyond his reach. Potter grabs a broom.

84 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

84

Arrietty and Peagreen walk along the apex of the roof.

The hulking shadow of Potter and Jeff are seen beneath them through the wet glass.

CRASH! What looks like a tree trunk shoots up from below, smashing the pane of glass in front of them. Potter is using his broom handle to take the floor out beneath them.

They duck down and cover their heads with their hands as glass shards the size of picture windows rain down.

ARRIETTY

Run!

They run down the rail, past the destroyed pane.

CRASH! They duck for cover as Potter destroys another pane.

85 INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

85

Potter, broom in hand, runs beneath a row of hanging plants, keeping his eyes trained on the Borrowers.

Jeff is a few feet behind. He spots shadows right above Potter's head.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

There!

Potter looks up and sees them. He takes aim again.

86 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

86

CRASH! Another pane is smashed. Arrietty hits the ground. Peagreen loses his balance, slipping through the empty frame.

He falls and lands with a THUMP in the mossy earth of a potted fern.

87 INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

87.

Exterminator Jeff is ecstatic.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

They're in the volcanta spongephorus!

POTTER

What are you talking about now?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (pointing)

In the fern!

Potter jumps on a plastic crate, reaching up to the plant. It is about half a foot beyond the range of his fingertips.

88 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

88

Arrietty is lowering a line to Peagreen.

FROM BELOW:

Potter leaps up and gives the plant a good WHACK.

The pot swings back and forth like a pendulum. Peagreen hooks his arm around the trunk of the fern to steady himself.

The line swings within Peagreen's reach. He tries to grab it but WHACK, Potter smacks the pot again. The pot swings the other way.

89 INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

89

Exterminator Jeff swings the broom.

90 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

90

Arrietty notices Jeff winding up to smash the pot like a pinata. Peagreen continues swinging back and forth. Again he reaches out to grab the line and misses.

CONTINUED

90 CONTINUED:

90

ARRIETTY

You're going to have to jump!

CRACK! Jeff hits the pot, smashing it into a thousand pieces.

Peagreen jumps and grabs hold of the line.

Potter is covered with dirt and moss and shattered terra cotta. He slips off the crate, stumbles forward, and falls CRASHING through a beehive.

The wood splits open and Potter is covered with gallons of honey. He attempts to wipe it from his face.

He looks up. An ominous BUZZING fills the air.

91 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

91

Potter charges out of the greenhouse SCREAMING. His entire head is covered with a solid layer of angry, stinging bees.

POTTER

Ahhgg! You clumsy stupid clot-headed...

92 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

92

Arrietty and Peagreen watch Potter running off like some kind of maniac.

ARRIETTY

Who is that bean?

PEAGREEN

I don't like him.

They walk to the edge of the greenhouse roof, where the garden wall towers above them like rock face.

PEAGREEN (continuing)

(looking up the wall)

No Arrietty, we are not climbing up...

But she's already set off.

93 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

93

Potter soaks his head under the garden hose at the side of the house. Exterminator Jeff, still neat as a pin, stands beside him.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

I don't think you should talk to me
like like Uncle Ocious.

Potter turns on him. Extreme swelling and pronounced bee strings have further enhanced the horror that is his face.

POTTER

Oh you don't do you!?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

If you're not satisfied with my work
you could always hire someone else.

Potter sighs and puts his head back under the hose.

POTTER

Jeff... if there was another
exterminator in this town, do you
think you would be standing here
right now? I need you to find those
'borrowers.'

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

They borrowed something important huh?

POTTER

Stole. They stole something very
important.

CONSTABLE STEADY, the local policeman, arrives on his bicycle. Jeff watches as he dismounts and approaches Potter.

CONSTABLE STEADY

Goodday gentlemen.

Potter switches off the hose and turns to face Constable Steady. His face is red, hairless, and covered in stings.

CONSTABLE STEADY (continuing)

Blimey! I would put some cream on
that sir, if I was you.

CONTINUED

93 CONTINUED:

93

POTTER

Well you're not me, are you? You're a village copper, and I'm a practising lawyer. What do you want?

CONSTABLE STEADY

It seems we've had a slight disturbance of the peace. I got a call that a red-faced man and an ice cream vendor --

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Pest Control Operative.

CONSTABLE STEADY

-- sorry, I stand corrected, were destroying this greenhouse.

POTTER

Get lost Copper. I own this property now, I'll do with it what I want.

CONSTABLE STEADY

Not really a polite way to talk to an officer of the law, is it sir? My mother always said that courtesy is the glue that holds society together.

POTTER

Constable, I am not even remotely interested in your mother's trite opinions, understand?

CONSTABLE STEADY

Oh. It's like that is it...well I'll be off then.

Constable Steady gets back on his bike and leaves.

94 EXT. GARDEN WALL - DAY

94

Peagreen and Arrietty are scaling the garden wall. From the top they can see the whole town. To them it's awe-inspiring.

ARRIETTY

Wow! Look Peagreen! I never imagined there would be this much world in the world.

CONTINUED

94 CONTINUED:

94

PEAGREEN

Me neither.

Arrietty points to the old church.

ARRIETTY

That's where we're headed.

PEAGREEN

It looked a lot closer on the map.

Arrietty takes in more of the view. She shakes her head.

ARRIETTY

Peagreen, do you think there are
other borrowers, like us, out there?

PEAGREEN (thinking)

Dunno. If there are, what do you
think they eat?

ARRIETTY

Come on, let's get going.

Peagreen looks over his shoulder.

PEAGREEN

What about the evil beans?

ARRIETTY

How could they find us now?

95 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - SAME MOMENT

95

POTTER

So. How do we find them now?

Exterminator Jeff puts his fingers in his mouth and WHISTLES.

The door of his truck bursts open and an overzealous
BLOODHOUND leaps out.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Say hello to Mr. Smelly.

96 EXT. STREET - DAY

96

Mr. Smelly strains against his leash, barking, sniffing, and slobbering as he leads Jeff and Potter towards the wall.

Pete pulls up on his bicycle and stops. He watches the strange threesome as they disappear around the corner.

PETE (TO HIMSELF)

Mr. Potter?

Pete looks back at the house and runs towards it.

97 INT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

97

Homily stands on the edge of the torn-up floor looking down into her foam-filled house. Pod is inside, checking it out.

HOMILY

What kind of monster would do a thing like this Pod?

POD

A human bean.

Pete is stung by the remark. Pod finds Arrietty and Peagreen's footprints leading out of the house.

POD (continuing)

Thank God they got out in time.

PETE

This is all my fault isn't it?

POD

(sighs)

No. You tried to help.

HOMILY

If it wasn't for you we would have still been here when this happened.

Pete removes another chunk of foam, revealing the map.

PETE

Look at this!

They look at the map, they see the line drawn from the old house to the new.

CONTINUED

97 CONTINUED:

97

PETE (continuing)
They're heading for the new house!

HOMILY
Outside, on their own, Oh my!

POD
They'll be heading past the
greenhouse and into the next garden,
(points to map)
we'll meet them here.

Pete pauses, noticing the open safe, puzzled.

PETE
I'm afraid we may not be the only
ones looking for them.

98 EXT. STREET - DAY

98

Potter and Exterminator Jeff jog behind Mr. Smelly who has
his nose to the ground.

POTTER
Does this mutt have any idea of the
importance of finding the little
creatures!?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Don't worry Uncle. He's not called
Mr. Smelly for nothing.

Mr. Smelly goes rigid and points to the horizon.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (continuing)
What did I tell you... there!

99 EXT. TELEPHONE COMPANY - DAY

99

Arrietty and Peagreen are making their way down a thick
cluster of telephone wires. As they reach the control box.
They see there are name-tags attached to all the wires.

ARRIETTY
This is too easy. All we have to do
is find the wire that leads to the
church and we're home free!

CONTINUED

99 CONTINUED:

99

They disappear through the control box and into the telephone exchange. Behind them we can see Mr. Smelly leading Potter and Jeff in hot pursuit.

100 INT. LENDER'S NEW HOUSE - DAY

100

Victoria picks up the phone and dials. Joe looks on.

VICTORIA

Hello Olive, it's Victoria Lender.
Pete rode off and I'm a little
worried...

101 INT. TELEPHONE COMPANY - DAY

101

The cluster of wires leads to an old-fashioned manual switchboard, expertly manned by the town gossip, OLIVE.

OLIVE (interrupting)

How awful for you, and on the day of
the big move as well! I'll put you
through to the constabulary Mrs.
Lender.

(patches a line
through)

Hello Graham...? I've got Mrs.
Lender for you, seems her little
Pete's run away from home...

Unseen by Olive, Arrietty and Peagreen walk along the wire
towards the switch-box.

OLIVE (continuing)

(with another call)

Hello Vicar; the doctor? It's those
hemorrhoids again is it? You poor
man! Putting you through.

Arrietty and Peagreen freeze as they hear the unmistakable
sound of Mr. Smelly leading the posse up the stairs.

OLIVE (continuing)

(on another call)

Hello Mrs. Cunningham, you'll be
wanting Dr. Willoughby I dare say,
just a moment, he's talking to the
vicar... about his hemorrhoids!

CONTINUED

101 CONTINUED:

101.

Potter, Exterminator Jeff and Mr. Smelly burst into the room.

ARRIETTY

This way.

She slides down the wire like a fireman into the switching box. Peagreen is right behind her.

POTTER

There they are!

Olive turns in her chair and recoils at the sight of Potter.

OLIVE

Good Lord! You should put some cream on that!

POTTER

Really? Isn't it time for your tea-break?

OLIVE

(checking her watch)

Well no as a matter of fact it's not for another....

Potter grabs the back of Olive's chair, wheels her to the door, and gives a tremendous shove.

Olive SCREAMS at the top of her lungs as she disappears down the hallway.

Mr. Smelly has worked himself into a fever pitch. He jumps up on the switching box and BARKS at the top of his lungs.

INSIDE THE SWITCHING-BOX:

Arrietty and Peagreen catch glimpses of Mr. Smelly's fangs and slobbering tongue. They cower against the back wall and try to remain as still as possible.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE:

Potter stabs patching-jacks into the switch-board.

IN THE SWITCHING-BOX:

Arrietty and Peagreen dive out of the way as the jacks PLUNGE through the wall around them. Conversations can be heard through Olive's abandoned headset.

CONTINUED

101 CONTINUED: (2)

101

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (O.S.)
Ooo you great big sexy squiggly bear.

VICAR (O.S.)
Mrs. Cunningham is that you!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM
Vicar!?

Peagreen leaps up as a jack comes through right at his feet.

102 EXT. TELEPHONE COMPANY CORRIDOR - DAY

102

Olive SCREAMS as she rockets down the hallway in her wheeled chair, picking up speed as she heads for the staircase.

103 INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

103

Potter thrusts more jacks into the switching-box. More telephone chaos can be heard through the headphones.

VICTORIA (O.S.)
He left in a terrible hurry, on his bike...

DR. WILLOUGHBY (O.S.)
...I've got some cream that should do the trick...

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (O.S.)
I didn't mean to call you a sexy squiggly cuddly bear..

CONSTABLE STEADY (O.S.)
..I'm sure you didn't Mrs. Cunningham.

VICAR (O.S.)
It's the sitting down...

He and Jeff hear TUMBLING, CRASHING, and HORRIBLE SCREAMS as Olive plummets down the stairs.

IN THE SWITCHING BOX:

The intruding jacks have forced Peagreen high into the air. He limbos back avoiding a particularly close call.

CONTINUED

103 CONTINUED:

103

Below, Arrietty runs back and forth, dodging nearer and nearer misses.

As she runs, one of the jacks catches the tail of her coat. She tries to shake free when another jack catches her sleeve, and leaves her wriggling, pinned to the wall.

ARRIETTY

Peagreen!

Peagreen hurries towards her, using the jacks as they come through as a staircase.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM:

Potter looks through one of the holes and sees that he has Arrietty stuck.

POTTER

Got you now, you little vermit!

Potter picks up a jack and takes aim. He is just about to finish Arrietty off when someone gives him a firm TAP on the shoulder with a night stick.

CONSTABLE STEADY (O.S.)

Wouldn't happen to own the Telephone Exchange as well, would you sir?

He turns to see Constable Steady standing beside an extremely disheveled and angry Olive.

CONSTABLE STEADY (continuing)

I suggest you put down the jack.

Potter hesitates, but he can't resist finishing the job. He stabs the lethal jack through the control panel.

IN THE SWITCHING BOX:

Peagreen is desperately helping Arrietty get out of her COAT. He takes the rucksak with the will.

As the jack comes through, the coat is stuck through the middle, but Arrietty and Peagreen escape through a hole at the back of the box.

104 EXT. TELEPHONE COMPANY - DAY

104

On to a gutter, high above the street.

PEAGREEN

Phew, that was close!

He turns round, and screams. A large pigeon is watching them curiously.

The pigeon flies off. Peagreen jumps back, losing his balance.

ARRIETTY

Peagreen!

She reaches for his flailing arms, but he falls down through the opening of a downspout.

PEAGREEN

Waaaaahhh!

Peagreen falls down the pipe and rockets out the bottom. He tumbles across the ground and shoots through the mouth of a milk bottle.

105 INT. LENDER NEW HOUSE - DAY

105

Victoria holds the phone at arms' length. Mrs. Cunningham can be heard EXPLAINING through the other end.

She and Joe look at each other wondering what the heck is going on.

106 EXT. TELEPHONE COMPANY - DAY

106

Constable Steady is escorting Potter, Exterminator Jeff and Mr. Smelly out of the Telephone Exchange.

CONSTABLE STEADY

I'll let it go with a caution this time sir, but if you could curb your anti-social tendencies in the future.

POTTER (anxious to resume the chase)

Spare me the lecture, I'm a lawyer,

CONSTABLE STEADY

Just one more thing sir.

CONTINUED

106 CONTINUED:

106

POTTER
(sighs, exasperated)
Look, I haven't got time for this!

CONSTABLE STEADY
You really should get some cream for
that you know.

107 EXT. ON THE GUTTER. SAME TIME.

107

Arrietty looks down, helpless, as the milk bottle is lifted
by a whistling MILKMAN and placed inside a rack along with
five others. Peagreen's still inside it.

ARRIETTY
Oh no! Peagreen!

Suddenly she sees Potter and the others come round the
corner, looking up at the ledge.

108 EXT. STREET - DAY

108

Exterminator Jeff hold's Arrietty's jacket in front of Mr.
Smelly's nose. Mr. Smelly sniffs the breeze.

ON THE GUTTER:

Arrietty holds her breath.

Across the street:

Pete is ducking behind a car. He holds his helmet up above
the roof like a periscope.

HOMILY
He's got Arrietty's jacket!

Pod calls down to Pete.

POD
Follow that bean!

IN THE BOTTLE:

On board the milk-float, which is moving down the street.
Peagreen tries to climb out. But the walls are too slippery
and the opening too high.

CONTINUED

108 CONTINUED:

108

Only one thing for it. PEAGREEN fills his lungs and screams.

PEAGREEN

Help!

Down another street.

MR. SMELLY whips his head round, only he can hear the high-pitched scream from down the street.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

He's on to something.

The dog drags them off in pursuit of the milk float.

GUTTER:

The milk float disappears round the corner. Arrietty collapses in the gutter and starts to cry.

A shadow appears behind her.

V/O

What are you crying for?

She stops crying and whirls round. Watching her quizzically is a borrower, but un-like any borrower she has ever seen. Cool, cocky, and dressed in a stylish ensemble of litter and scraps. This is SPILLER.

ARRIETTY

(lost for words)

Who... or what... are you?

SPILLER

Who am I!? I'm Spiller of course!
Who are you?

ARRIETTY

Arietty Clock, of course!

SPILLER

'Clock.' Ah an 'innie,' that explains it.

ARRIETTY

Explains what?

CONTINUED

108 CONTINUED: (2)

108

SPILLER

Never mind. You'd better come with me.

ARRIETTY

(shakes her head)

Not without my brother.

SPILLER

That's just it, I know where he's going.

109 EXT. DOUBLE DUTCH DAIRY - DAY

109

The Double Dutch Cow and Windmill, sits atop the Dairy. The milk float drives through the gates beneath.

Inside the milk bottle, Peagreen is whiling away the time.

PEAGREEN

(singing nervously)

Ninety-nine bottles of milk on the wall, ninety-nine bottle of milk--

110 EXT. STREET - DAY

110

Spiller leads Arrietty to a grate at the opening of the downspout. Part of the iron mesh has been broken off.

SPILLER

This way innie.

ARRIETTY

Stop calling me that!

SPILLER

Why? Innies live in houses. You're an innie.

ARRIETTY

You don't live in a house?

SPILLER

You wouldn't catch Spiller living in a house! My floor is the earth, my walls the tall grass, and my roof the open sky,

CONTINUED

110 CONTINUED:

110

ARRIETTY (impressed)
So that makes you --

SPILLER
-- an outie, right.

Spiller steps through the grate. Arrietty follows.

111 INT. SEWER - DAY

111

Arrietty and Spiller climb down steps made by a badly formed brick wall.

SPILLER
Us outies come and go as we please,
whereas you innies depend on beans
for a living. You don't dare come
outside.

(chuckles)
Frightened you'll get squished!

ARRIETTY
That's not true!

SPILLER
Or lost...?
(she can't deny that)
Whereas Spiller's not afraid of
anything.

ARRIETTY
Like being too modest? Anyway, I'm
not afraid of anything either.

SPILLER
Oh no? What were you innies doing
outside anyway?

ARRIETTY
We were moving and we got separated
from our parents.

SPILLER
Parents? You've got parents?

ARRIETTY
Of course! Hasn't everybody?

Spiller doesn't answer this.

CONTINUED

111 CONTINUED:

111

ARRIETTY (continuing)
My father says we're a dying breed.

SPILLER
Yeah, well, what does he know? He's
just an innie, in'he.

They slip through an old crack in the wall.

112 INT. CERAMIC PIPE - DAY

112

The pipe forms a long dark tunnel.

ARRIETTY
Where are we going? What is this?

SPILLER
It used to be an old water-pipe. Now
it's the Spiller expressway!

He strikes a match on a brick, lighting up the tunnel.
Arrietty stands before the ROCKET CAR. An aerosol spray can
strapped to a roller skate.

SPILLER (continuing)
And this is the Spiller express!

SPILLER hands her a helmet made from a walnut shell, and puts
one on himself. ARIETTY looks on, dubious.

SPILLER (continuing)
Unless you're too scared of course.

ARRIETTY
Scared!?
(snatches the helmet)
Why would I be scared?

SPILLER
Because you're a girl. Because
you're an innie. And because...

He goes to the back and uses his match to light a short pilot
candle beneath the nozzle of the spray can.

SPILLER (continuing)
...this baby goes very very very fast.

CONTINUED

112 CONTINUED:

112

He climbs back in beside ARIETTY, and straps them both in.
She has the ruck-sack on her lap.

SPILLER (continuing)
You'd better leave that.

ARRIETTY
No way.

SPILLER
(curious)
Why? What is it?

ARRIETTY
None of your business.

For a moment they sit there, nothing happening.

SPILLER
Ready?

SPILLER smiles mischievously, and releases a hand-brake made from a safety-pin. The rocket car sets off down the tunnel like a... well... a rocket.

113 INT. DOUBLE DUTCH DAIRY - SERVICE ENTRANCE DAY

113

The Milkman pulls up a push cart, and begins unloading bottles. Peagreen is in the middle of the pile.

The cart full of dirty bottles slides through a chute and down a ramp of stainless steel rollers into a sparkling clean automated bottling operation.

114 INT. CERAMIC PIPE - DAY

114

SPILLER'S rocket burns down the pipe, his face contorted by 'g-forces'. He sneaks a glance at ARIETTY beside him. She's loving it.

115 EXT. STREET. SAME TIME.

115

We can just hear the passage of the rocket beneath the pavement. Over which it passes Potter, Jeff and Mr. Smelly, also heading for the bottling plant.

116 INT. DRAIN. DAY

116

Spiller pulls on the brake. They screech to a halt beneath a grating. Arrietty's is thrilled but hides it.

SPILLER

Well? What do you think?

ARRIETTY

(shrugs)

I've been faster.

117 INT. BOTTLING PLANT - DAY

117

A WORKER catches the crate of bottles and unloads them onto a conveyor belt. Inside, Peagreen is still singing.

Across the room, the final screw in a drainage grating unscrews itself.

Arrietty and Spiller's heads appear. Arrietty looks round, eyes widening. From her perspective the bottling plant resembles a vast and dangerous theme park.

ARRIETTY

Wow! Where are we?

SPILLER

Bottling plant of course. Come on.

They take off their helmets and climb out of the drain.

AT THE CONVEYOR:

The Worker continues unloading the dirty bottles onto the conveyor belt. The last bottle contains Peagreen.

PEAGREEN

(still singing)

If one milk bottle should...

He looks ahead. His bottle is moving down a conveyor towards a high-pressure nozzle blasting soapy water.

PEAGREEN (continuing)

...accidently fall...gulp!

SPILLER

There he is!

CONTINUED

117 CONTINUED:

117

SPILLER and ARRIETTY have climbed onto a rail beside the conveyor. PEAGREEN waves and shouts frantically as he passes.

PEAGREEN

Arrietty! Help!

SPILLER (SHOUTS)

Hold on! We'll get you out!

PEAGREEN

Who was that!?

The bottle is carried past them.

ARRIETTY (shouts)

Peagreen!

(To SPILLER)

Where's he going!?

SPILLER

He's going on the bottle run, that's all.

ARRIETTY

The bottle run!? What's that?

They watch as Peagreen's bottle heads towards the washer.

SPILLER

It's an adventure! He'll love it.

ARRIETTY

No he won't. He's not what you'd call adventurous.

Spiller climbs onto another branch of the conveyor line. He waits for an opportunity to jump onto it, between bottles.

SPILLER

So long as jumps off before the capping, he'll be okay.

ARRIETTY

The 'capping?' What's the 'capping?'
Peagreen's an 'innie' remember, he
doesn't know about 'capping.'

Spiller jumps across onto the moving line of bottles.

CONTINUED

117 CONTINUED: (2)

117

SPILLER

Calm down. We'll get him off before
the capping, don't worry. Now jump!

She swallows and jumps across to Spiller's outstretched arm.

Further up the conveyor:

Peagreen ducks and covers his head as a water nozzle shoots
down and soaks him with a solution of foamy detergent.

PEAGREEN

Whaaaaah!

Then he's rinsed in a fine mist of clear water.

PEAGREEN (continuing)

Oooohhh!

He emerges with his hair matted down around him, looking like
a drowned rat.

PEAGREEN (continuing; pathetically)

I'm all wet!

118 EXT. STREET - DAY

118

Pete, Pod and Homily watch as Potter, Jeff and Mr. Smelly go
through the front doors of the Bottling Plant.

PETE

It's Mr. Potter, and the exterminator.

HOMILY

(puts her hand to her
mouth)

Oh Pod! The Exterminator!

They watch as Potter closes the door behind him.

INT. BOTTLING PLANT. IN THE MILK TROUGH.

With his borrowing stick Spiller knocks a small cardboard box
off part of the assembly line.

ARRIETTY

What's that for?

He launches it into the trough of milk, and jumps on board.

CONTINUED

118 CONTINUED:

118

SPILLER

C'mon. This'll take us right past
him.

They sail off down a river of milk.

ASSEMBLY LINE:

A metal claw grabs hold of Peagreen's bottle, turning it
upside down. Peagreen jams his feet into the end to stay in
the bottle. The conveyor belt rushes past beneath him like
a freeway. He's terrified.

PEAGREEN

Whooooaaa...!

The bottle turns a corner and rushes towards the blow-drying
machine.

MILK TROUGH:

Arrietty and Spiller approach from the another direction.

ASSEMBLY LINE:

A gale force wind of hot air blasts Peagreen from beneath.
His hair fluffs up and stands on end.

PEAGREEN (continuing)

Oooohhh...!

MILK TROUGH:

Peagreen's bottle crosses directly over the milk trough, on
an intercept course with Spiller and Arrietty.

SPILLER

Jump Peabody jump!

ARRIETTY

It's Peagreen.

Peagreen looks down at the tiny raft beneath him.

PEAGREEN

Not a chance!

ARRIETTY

It's alright Peagreen, we'll catch
you!

CONTINUED

118 CONTINUED: (2)

118

But Peagreen can't jump. He freezes, as the bottle passes over them.

ARRIETTY (continuing)
I told you he wasn't adventurous.

They turn round just as the raft heads for the end of the trough, where the milk surges over the lip like Niagara Falls.

SPILLER
Quick.

Just in time, they jump onto a ledge as the raft plunges over the 'falls.'

ARRIETTY
Any other bright ideas?

They pull themselves up from a ledge.

SPILLER
Yep, we can still catch him.

They climb onto the top of the inverted line of bottles, and start running...

119 INT. DOUBLE DUTCH DAIRY - DAY

119

Potter, Jeff, and Mr. Smelly enter. Potter points.

POTTER
You look that way and take 'smelly' with you.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
That's Mr. Smelly.

POTTER
(sighs)
Whatever, Jeff, whatever.

They split up and begin their search.

ON THE INVERTED LINE OF BOTTLES:

Spiller lowers his line, they are almost over Peagreen's bottle.

CONTINUED

119 CONTINUED:

119

SPILLER
(shouting)
Oi! Peasoup...!

ARRIETTY
Peagreen!

SPILLER
Peagreen...grab the rope, We'll pull
you out.

So saying Spiller throws the rope down to Peagreen's bottle. The first time he misses, but not the second. The end of the rope dangles into the bottle, and Peagreen grabs it.

SPILLER (continuing)
Pull!

Both he and Arrietty pull on the rope. Peagreen slowly rises out of the bottle.

ACROSS THE BOTTLING PLANT FLOOR:

The activity catches Potter's eye. He gestures madly to Jeff, who is searching on the other side of the room.

AT THE WINDOW:

Pete's head appears in the window. His eyes widen as he sees what's happening. Pod, in the helmet, spots an open window in the adjacent warehouse.

POD
That way, we can climb through.

ON THE LINE OF BOTTLES:

Peagreen swings between on-coming bottles. Arrietty and Spiller try to pull him up.

But just then the line turns a corner, sending Peagreen one way, and Arrietty and Spiller the other.

Peagreen drops into another milk bottle, still heading for the milk filling station.

Spiller and Arrietty are carried in the other direction. They can only watch as Peagreen's bottle slides under the filler and is filled with milk.

CONTINUED

119 CONTINUED: (2)

119

SPILLER

He's got to get out of there before...

But he doesn't, and a large metal cap is slammed down over the lid of the bottle.

ARRIETTY

The 'capping.'

Spiller nods. Peagreen's bottle continues along the conveyor belt through a hatch.

The crate is carried through a hole in the wall.

ARRIETTY (continuing)

Peagreen! Do something Spiller!

But they can't do anything, the inverted line of bottles carries them off in the other direction.

INSIDE THE BOTTLE:

Peagreen floats, stunned, in a bubbling white well of milk.

120 INT. BOTTLE STORE - SAME TIME

120

Pete climbs through the window, into store house. A conveyor delivers filled milk bottles from the bottling line.

POD

Alright, put us down.

He places the helmet beside the conveyor line, just as a crate comes past.

HOMILY

Oh Pod, it's hopeless, we'll never find them.

Homily notices something in one of the bottles.

HOMILY (continuing)

Look Pod!

A milk bottle passes them with the unmistakable form of Peagreen floating in it. He sees them and waves.

Pete grabs the bottle. He punches the cap off and pours the milk into his hand, including a sodden Peagreen.

CONTINUED

120 CONTINUED:

120

Homily rushes onto his palm and snatches up her son.

HOMILY (continuing)
Peagreen! Peagreen!

He opens his eyes and coughs up some milk. They all smile.

PEAGREEN
Why do these things happen to me?

INT. BOTTLING PLANT. SAME TIME:

Potter SMASHES a bottle on the inverted line. Followed by another, and another.

Spiller and Arrietty are being carried by the line of bottles towards Potter.

ARRIETTY
Shouldn't we jump or something
Spiller.

SPILLER
Relax, he won't get us.

Further down the line, Potter smashes another bottle..

SPILLER (continuing)
That's one angry bean!

ARRIETTY
(remembering the will)
We borrowed something from him.

SPILLER
It must have been something
important.

Just as they reach Potter, Spiller leaps through the air and lands on a switch, pulling it down.

Potter looks up, puzzled. A blue light flashes. Suddenly a giant sluice opens behind him, releasing a tidal wave of slushy cottage cheese.

Potter is swept from his feet and carried down the trough SCREAMING. He tumbles off the fall and lands stuck like a cork in the funnel below.

CONTINUED

120 CONTINUED: (2)

120

The assembly line runs right past his face. PLINK, PLINK, PLINK, knocking him with bottle after bottle.

Jeff races across the factory floor to help Potter. He tugs on his arm but Potter is stuck pretty tightly.

POTTER

Get them you moron!

Meanwhile Arrietty and Spiller make their escape through the same exit as Peagreen's bottle.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

(biting his tongue)

I don't think you should talk to me like that. I run my own business you know.

Potter pulls himself out of the cheese, Mr. Smelly tries to lick it off his face.

POTTER

Get this mutt off me will you.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

I'm a respected and valuable member of the community Uncle Ocious, and this dog has a long pedigree...

POTTER

(cutting him off)

Jeff, when I'm running this town, I'll make you mayor. Happy now? Now will you and Smelly...

(corrects himself)

...Mr. Smelly, please go round the front and make sure the little rats can't escape.

Jeff sets off on his mission, molified.

121 EXT. BOTTLING PLANT DAY

121

Arrietty and Spiller run down the line, and straight into Pod.

POD

(hugging her)

Arrietty. Thank heaven! Who's this?

CONTINUED

121 CONTINUED:

121

Spiller stands by awkwardly.

ARRIETTY

This is Spiller. He saved me from
the evil bean.

POD

'Spiller' eh? Thank you Spiller.

Spiller and Pod execute an involved secret handshake.

SPILLER (surprised)

Why didn't you tell me your pop was
an outie?

Arrietty is intrigued but has other business. She takes the
will out of her back-pack.

ARRIETTY

Take this Pete, it's the will.

PETE

The will? Aunt Mary's Will? But Mr.
Potter said...

ARRIETTY

Mr. Potter was trying to destroy it.

PEAGREEN

And us.

POD

Take that to your parents, right now,
they'll know what to do with it.

Pete goes over to the window.

PETE

What about you?

POD

Don't worry about us, we're borrowers
remember.

He pats the water bottle, full of borrowings.

AT THE WINDOW:

Pete climbs up to the window, just as Exterminator Jeff looks
in from the other side.

CONTINUED

121 CONTINUED: (2)

121

Pete jumps back down.

PETE

Oh no!

He tries the door, locked! He starts crawling down the conveyor, past in-coming crates of milk.

122 INT. STORE-HOUSE - DAY

122

Using things he borrowed along the way, Pod is supervising the construction of a hot air balloon. Two butane lighters are suspended above a styrofoam cup.

Pod fires up a lighter, and the canopy (a crisp packet) fills with hot air.

123 INT. CONVEYOR. SAME TIME.

123

Pete crawls straight into Potter, who's coming the other way. He doubles back the way he came.

124 INT. STORE-HOUSE - DAY

124

The hot air balloon begins to rise, but just barely.

POD

We need more lift!

He turns up the flames on the butane lighters. It does little to help, they hover only inches above the table top.

SPILLER

There's too much weight!

They begin to throw everything they've borrowed on their journey over the side. An absurd amount of borrowed items rains down on the counter.

CONVEYOR ENTRANCE:

Pete races out of the conveyor, closely followed by Potter. Meanwhile Jeff and Mr. Smelly are coming in through the window.

The balloon still isn't rising. It just clears a box of donuts. Spiller makes a decision.

CONTINUED

124 CONTINUED:

124

He starts to climb over the edge.

ARRIETTY
What are you doing?

SPILLER
You can't make it with all this extra weight!

Arrietty grabs hold of him.

ARRIETTY
We're not leaving without you!

Spiller pushes her hand away and jumps. He lands softly on a powdered donut.

ARRIETTY (continuing; shouts)
Spiller, no!

Potter looks up, and sees the Balloon, slowly rising off the ground. He rushes towards it..

POTTER
Gotcha you little vermits!

Pete pulls out the the will and waves it in the air.

PETE
Leave them alone! This is what you're after!

Potter stops in his tracks, and turns to him.

POTTER
Give it to me boy.

Meanwhile the balloon rises quickly now without Spiller. He stands on the donut and waves.

SPILLER
Families need to stick together!

As Potter reaches for the will, Pete throws it high in the air, over Potter and towards the balloon.

Arrietty tries to catch it, but it just misses, landing on the top of a stack of milk crates.

CONTINUED

124 CONTINUED: (2)

124

Jeff makes a grab for it, but Pod throws his borrowing stick and manages to hook the will up into the balloon.

Potter and Jeff charge after the balloon, rising just beyond their reach.

Mr. Smelly sticks his snout in the donut box and GULPS down everything in sight.

The Borrowers sail out of the skylight to freedom. Arrietty looks down.

The donut box is empty. Mr. Smelly's nose is covered with powdered sugar and Spiller is nowhere in sight.

125 EXT. THE SKY ABOVE THE DOUBLE DUTCH DIARY - DAY

125

The Borrowers sail over the parking lot. Arrietty is sobbing. Pod puts his arm around her.

POD

Don't worry about him. If there's one thing an outie knows, it's how to survive.

126 EXT. DAIRY - DAY

126

Potter watches as the balloon rises up over the town. They're finally getting away.

He looks down. Across the street, a young boy walks past. We've seen him earlier, Jimmy, with his new catapult.

POTTER

Hey. Kid!

Jimmy looks up, immediately suspicious.

JIMMY

What's wrong with your face?

POTTER

Never mind that. Lend me your catapult...

(making an effort)

...please.

CONTINUED

126 CONTINUED:

126

JIMMY
(thinks for a moment)

No.

Potter snaps. He rips the catapult from him.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Hey! That's not fair Uncle!

POTTER
I ask nice and where does it get me!

Potter loads a stone into the catapult while Jimmy runs off towards the police station, crying.

Potter takes aim and fires...

127 EXT. THE SKY ABOVE THE DOUBLE DUTCH DIARY - DAY

127

POP! Potter's projectile hits the mark, ripping a hole in the mylar chip bag.

POD
We're losing altitude!

The Borrowers unload whatever ballast they have left. POP! Another stone hits the bag. The airship begins dropping fast.

128 EXT. DAIRY PARKING LOT - DAY

128.

Pete watches with horror as the borrower's airship whirls out of control. Jeff waits below, with a butterfly net. They fall straight into it.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Got 'em!

Potter snaps open a burlap sack and Jeff deposits the borrowers inside.

Pete catches up with them just as they are climbing into Jeff's truck. He runs up to Potter's open window.

PETE
Please Mr. Potter! What are you going to do with them!?

CONTINUED

128 CONTINUED:

128

POTTER

Have them destroyed, like any other
vermin. Now get out of my way!

Potter rolls up his window. Jeff fires up the truck. Pete
hammers on the glass.

PETE

But they never did you any harm!

But the truck pulls away.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Well I hope you're happy now Uncle.

POTTER

You know, I think I am.

At that moment his mobile phone rings.

129 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - SAME TIME

129

A WRECKING CREW, bulldozers, wrecking balls, and dump trucks,
assembled before the Lender's home, stationary. The foreman
is on the phone to Potter.

FOREMAN

Mr. Potter, we've got a problem.

130 INT. TRUCK. SAME TIME.

130

POTTER (SHOUTS INTO PHONE)

A problem! What kind of problem!

131 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - SAME TIME

131

The foreman holds the phone away from his ear as Potter bawls
him out. A uniformed hand takes the phone.

CONSTABLE STEADY (INTO PHONE)

Constable Steady here Mr. Potter. It
appears your are endeavouring to
demolish this house sir...

132 INT. TRUCK. SAME TIME.

132

POTTER (INTO PHONE)
That's right! There's no law against
that is there?

133 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - SAME TIME.

133

CONSTABLE STEADY (INTO PHONE)
...without an appropriate DH67,
signed and dated by the town clerk.
Yes I rather think there is a town
ordinance against that sir.

Constable steady holds the phone away from his ear again, as
Potter goes ballistic at the other end. He exchanges a
'some mothers do have them' look with with the foreman.

134 INT. TRUCK. SAME TIME

134

Potter slams the phone off angrily.

POTTER
Take me to my office, and step on it!

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
Something wrong?

POTTER
Small-town, small-minds, small
ambitions. I sometimes think this
place doesn't deserve someone like me.

Jeff stops the truck in the middle of the road.

POTTER (continuing)
What are you doing?

EXTERMINATOR JEFF
You know, you're right.

POTTER
Are you mad, get this thing moving!

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (steely)
I know you're my Uncle, and a lawyer,
and it's impolite of me to say this,
but get out of my truck.

CONTINUED

134 CONTINUED:

134

Potter reluctantly gets out of the truck, which Jeff drives back down the street, towards Pete.

135 EXT. POTTER'S OFFICE - DAY

135

Potter dashes into his office. He flips up the plastic dome of the model condominiums and deposits the borrowers inside.

POTTER

Welcome to Pottersville! I hope you like it, it's the last thing you'll ever see.

He plucks the will out of Arrietty's pocket.

POTTER (continuing)

I'll take that.

They watch as he then starts rifling his desk.

POTTER (continuing; TO HIMSELF)

DH67, DH67, it must be in here somewhere!

(finds it)

Ah hah!

ARRIETTY

We know what you're up to, and you're not going to get away with it!

Potter turns from the desk.

POTTER

Oh it talks does it!? And it knows what I'm up to!?

(picks up Arrietty)

In which case you can be the first to go on my little ride.

He sellotapes Arrietty to a line of paper running into a automatic shredding machine.

POD

Leave her alone you great big ugly bully!

He flicks on the shredder, then looks at his watch.

CONTINUED

135 CONTINUED:

135

POTTER

Don't worry, you're be joining her soon enough. I'll just attend some business at the town hall, then I'll re-unite you all.

He closes the dome and runs out the door, locking it.

ON THE PAPER: Arrietty is pulled towards the shredder, watched by her horrified family. She struggles, but the tape is too strong.

UNDER THE DOME: Pod tries to lift up the plastic dome, but it's too heavy.

ON THE PAPER: Disintegrating as it goes through the teeth of the shredder. It begins to shred her hair. She screams.

A large hand switches off the shredder, just as Arrietty was a 'gonner.' She opens her eyes, it's Exterminator Jeff.

ARRIETTY

But... you're the exterminator.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF

Pest Control Operative - but you're not really pests are you.

Pete tips up the plastic dome, freeing the others.

EXTERMINATOR JEFF (continuing)

And anyway, young Pete here told me about the house. Shocking.

POD (to Pete)

You know, for a bean, you're alright.

ARRIETTY

It's not over yet! We've got to get to the town hall before he can demolish the house!

136 INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

136

Potter hustles up to the front desk. A BORED CLERK attends.

POTTER

Quick, where's the town clerk's office?

CONTINUED

136 CONTINUED:

136

CLERK

What's the magic word?

POTTER

Listen, I'm in a hurry! I've got a house to demolish!

CLERK

I'm waiting.

POTTER

So am I, now where is it!?

CLERK

Right hand elevator to the third floor. Left out of the doors, right at 'traffic violations.' You will see a red door up ahead, do not go through this, instead take the green door to the right. Go eight steps, maybe ten for you, and you'll see a fire escape on your left. Adjacent to the fire escape is a staircase. Go up the staircase three flights, out the door, past 'planning' and you're there.

(pause)

You can't miss it.

POTTER

Isn't there a faster way?

CLERK

Walk quickly.

137 EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

137

Pete skids his bike to a stop, takes off his helmet, and runs up the steps as fast as his legs will carry him.

138 INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

138

He screeches to a halt in front of the Clerk.

PETE

Excuse me ma'am, could you please direct me to the Town Clerk?

CONTINUED

138 CONTINUED:

138

The clerk smiles.

CLERK

Certainly young man. Take the left hand elevator to the sixth floor, you can't miss it.

PETE

Thank you.

CLERK

You're welcome.

139 INT. TOWN HALL CORRIDOR - DAY

139

Potter hurries down a long corridor, angry. He's lost.

POTTER (TO HIMSELF)

'Left at the green door, right at the red door...' that idiot's the first to go when I'm running this town!

140 INT. ANOTHER TOWN HALL CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

140

Pete runs out of the lift. Pod is shouting instructions from the cycling helmet.

POD

Stop. Look! There is it.

Two doors in front of them. One marked: Town Clerk, the other: Cleaners' Room.

Beat... Pod has an idea.

141 INT. TOWN HALL CORRIDOR. SAME TIME.

141

Potter stops in front of a door marked 'Planning.'

POTTER

Ah-ha!

Suddenly Pete comes barreling round the corner and runs straight into him. He's no longer wearing the helmet.

CONTINUED

141 CONTINUED:

141

POTTER (continuing)
(grabs Pete)
Gotcha you midget loving brat! What
are you doing here?

PETE
(scared)
Don't destroy our house Mr. Potter,
please! It's all we've got!

POTTER
I'll do what I want with it!

He picks Pete up by the scruff of his neck, and deposits him
in the elevator, pressing down.

POTTER (continuing)
Now stop bothering me!

He sets off...

DOWN THE CORRIDOR:

To the door marked 'Town Clerk.'

POTTER (continuing)
And about time too!

He rushed through the door without knocking.

142 INT. CLEANER'S ROOM. DAY

142

Only to find himself in a dark room full of cleaning
materials, and no town clerk.

POTTER (TO HIMSELF)
Nice try kid...

He turns to leave, but hears the lock clicking.

POTTER (continuing)
Alright! Who's in here?

He lights a match. Homily nips out and starts to tie his
shoelaces together.

Potter tries to turn, but falls hard.

CONTINUED

142 CONTINUED:

142

He climbs back to his feet and bends over to try and un-knot his shoelace.

On a shelf:

Pod wraps one hand around a dangling line and uses the other to draw his hat pin. He sounds a WAR CRY and swings from the shelf with the panache of Errol Flynn.

Midair:

Pod aims his pin at his target -- Potter's backside. He sinks it through the fabric of Potter's trousers with all his might.

Stacks:

Potter SCREAMS at the top of his lungs and springs upright.

Peagreen waits on the shelf armed with a spray can of bleach.

POTTER (continuing)
Aaahh! My face!

He holds his hands up to his face. At which point the Borrowers execute 'the coup de grace.'

Pod and Arrietty jump from a high shelf, rolls of clear sticky tape wrapped around their waists. The tape unwinds as Pod and Arrietty sling-shot round Potter's head and up-raised arms, taping him as they swing.

Pod lands on one shoulder, Arrietty the other. Potter can't do anything but watch them from the corner of his eyes.

ARRIETTY
You know, you really should get some cream for that.

POTTER
I hate you little people.

Pod absails down Potter's jacket and scrabbles for something in the breast pocket.

POD
Got it!

He holds up the will. Arrietty help him up onto Potter's shoulder, but Potter is working himself free of the tape.

CONTINUED

142 CONTINUED: (2)

142

POD (continuing)
We'll just get this back to it's
right rightful owners and....!

He suddenly notices that Potter has worked the tape free.

POD (continuing)
Gulp!

POTTER
...and you were saying.

Potter takes the will back from Pod.

POTTER (continuing)
A tip. If you're going to tape a
man, tape him, don't to talk him.

He scoops the borrowers up and puts them under an upturned
wire waste-paper basket. He looks along the shelf for a
suitable weapon of destruction.

He grabs a vacuum cleaner and plugs it in. The Borrowers
blanch, it's their worst nightmare!

Potter pokes the nozzle towards them, grinning evilly. They
hold hands, their hair beginning to rise into the nozzle.

Suddenly the hoover switches off and the ceiling fan stops
turning.

POTTER (continuing)
What the --

He looks up and sees a hundred lines cascading down around
him from the fan.

He looks down. A hundred BORROWERS have surrounded him and
are holding the lines taught.

One of the tiny men at his feet signals across the room.
Potter looks over to the door. Several more little Borrowers
hit the power back on.

The fan begins to revolve and Potter is trussed up like a
parma ham.

Spiller descends from a line and tips over the paper-basket
cage.

CONTINUED

142 CONTINUED: (3)

142

ARRIETTY
How in the world?

SPILLER
Just a little of that Spiller magic.

The air fills with the WAR CRIES of a THOUSAND BORROWERS.

Potter tries to free himself from the ties that bind him. He looks up and sees a score of borrowers riding the blades of the fan.

He swallows hard. The small drawers of a card file open, each containing four or five borrowers armed to the teeth.

A squadron of borrowers file in through cracks in the walls. Still more appear from the vents and windows.

It's Potter's last stand. He falls over.

Pod walks up to his defeated foe, his back slapped by old borrowing friends along the way.

Pod climbs onto Potter's face and pokes his nose with his borrowing stick.

POD
You give beans a bad name.

Spiller hears FOOTSTEPS and VOICES.

SPILLER
Someone's coming.

143 INT. TOWN HALL (CORRIDOR) - DAY

143

Pete leads Constable Steady into the administrative office.

Potter lies in the middle of the room, right where we left him.

There are no ropes around him and no sign of borrowers anywhere.

PETE
(to Constable Steady)
There is a piece of paper in this man's pocket that proves he was trying to cheat us out of our house.

CONTINUED

143 CONTINUED:

143

Constable Steady plucks the will from Potter's pocket and scans it quickly.

POTTER

You don't understand I'm...

CONSTABLE STEADY

...a lawyer?

He produces a pair of handcuffs.

144 EXT. LENDER HOUSE - DAY

144

It's a sunny day and the Lenders are moving back into their house.

145 INT. COUNTY JAIL - DAY

145

Potter is pressed up against the bars of a small cell. Constable Steady has a chair leaned up against the bars.

CONSTABLE STEADY

Little people, sir?

POTTER

Yes, that what I've been trying to tell you!

CONSTABLE STEADY

Had tiny tables and tiny chairs, did they?

146 INT. LENDER HOUSE - NIGHT

146

Joe and Victoria are having a dinner party with Olive, Constable Steady, the Clerk, Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, Sophie, Pete's Teacher, Jimmy (with catapult), the Vicar, and Exterminator Jeff. Mr. Smelly eats some scraps.

JOE

Here's to our son, and to all of you, without whom we would have lost our home.

They all drink to that.

CONTINUED

146 CONTINUED:

146

Pete surreptitiously scoops some peas from his plate and leaves the table.

147 INT. LENDER HOUSE - NIGHT

147

Pete is in the hallway, dropping the peas through a hole one at a time.

148 INT. BORROWER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

148

Peagreen stands by the cooker catching the peas as they fall from Pete's hands, and arranging them neatly on a large coin platter.

The Borrowers are back at home and they are entertaining as well. Pop is carving a shrimp. Everyone sits round the finger-plate table.

PEAGREEN

So Dad, what made you give up being an outie?

POD

(proudly)

I married an innie.

He winks at Homily. Arrietty and Spiller head for the door.

HOMILY

Where are you two off to?

ARRIETTY

Just going for a walk round the garden Mum.

POD

Alright love, have a nice time.

ARRIETTY

We will!

There's a mischievous twinkle in her eye. Behind their backs they are carrying the walnut-shell crash-helmets for the Spiller Express.

149 INT. GRANDPA PETE'S STORY - DAY

149

Patrick is at Grandpa Pete's feet, still listening with all ears.

GRANDPA PETE

And that is why you'll never see your pen again.

PATRICK

It was a good story.

Patrick rises to his feet. Something shiny catches the light. He goes to the bookshelf and retrieves his watch.

PATRICK (continuing)

But look.

He shows the pen to Grandpa Pete. It is hard to tell who is more disappointed.

150 EXT. GRANDPA PETE'S STUDY - DAY

150

Patrick leaves the study, closing the door behind him. He pauses to put the pen on his wrist.

He sees something in the reflection of the glass. Tiny figures are moving along the baseboard.

Patrick turns as quickly as he can.

But there is nothing there.

FADE OUT: